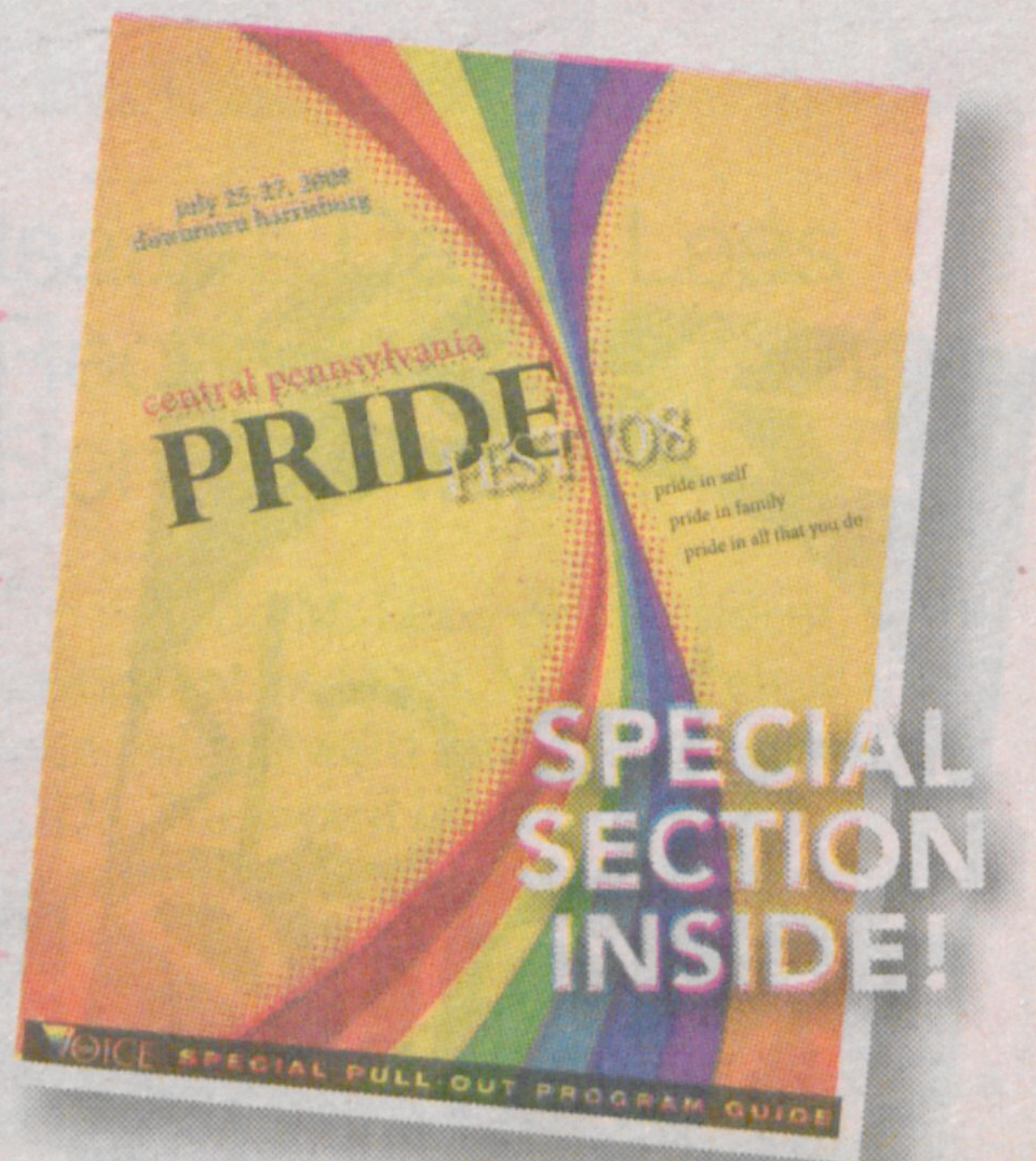
central VOICE



SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE!

FREE

JULY/AUGUST 2008

Black & White And All That Jazz Raises $34,447

"I had a wonderful time. I can't think of a day in my entire life that I had so much fun," Black & White party-goer Lillian Valentin told Club XS manager and event guru Charles Oswald.

Valentin went on to say "the event was the most extraordinary benefit I have ever attended. The turnout was grandiose as was the décor. The ambiance was perfect and I truly enjoyed my self."

The event raised $34,447 benefiting Caring Together and The AIDS Fund of South Central PA, affiliated with Harrisburg-based The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Proceeds will be split 50/50 with York-based Caring Together and The AIDS Fund which will match every $2 donated with $1 from The National AIDS Fund.

Mykell Tindell served as master of ceremonies. Chris Quigley served as entertainment director. Oswald was the event's producer. Chad-Alan Carr was choreographer.

Restaurants participating in the food court included Altland House Hospitality Group, Harp & Fiddle, Culinary Creations of York, Bella's Italian Bistro, Starbucks, Cakes by Mardella, Round Eye Sushi, US Food Baltimore, Belevedere, McDonald's, Victor's, Liz Stotsky, US Food Baltimore, coordinated the food court.

The Black & White Board of Directors is Oswald, Mary Beth Hare, Tim Wood, Christopher Moore, Sabrina Paul, Karen McCraw, Central Voice publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli, Michael Lapanese, Michelle Ruiz.

Photos on page 2 >

Get your marching orders

Everthing you need to know about PrideFest '08 starting on page 14

AIDS Dine Out Now 3 Meals

"Dine Out South Central Pennsylvania is now expanded to cover donations from all three meals - breakfast, lunch, and dinner," says Phil Goropoulos, CEO of AIDS Community Alliance.

Literally thousands of individuals and families across south central Pennsylvania gather at as many as 50 restaurants for a night of good food and fighting AIDS. This year's event is Sept. 24.

Participating restaurants donate up to 25% of their total proceeds.

Participating restaurants donate differing levels of the proceeds, up to 25% of their total for the day. In the last round, Molly's Pub, Lancaster, raised the bar by donating 50% of all food sales. Reservations are a must at Molly's Pub," Goropoulos says.

All proceeds from Dine Out support the services and programs of AIDS Community Alliance and the United Service Program Partnership, Family First Health, OPEN and PPCP's HIV Peer Education Program. For more information and event details visit www.dineoutsouthcentralpa.org or www.aca-pa.com

More photos inside!

Mykell Tindell

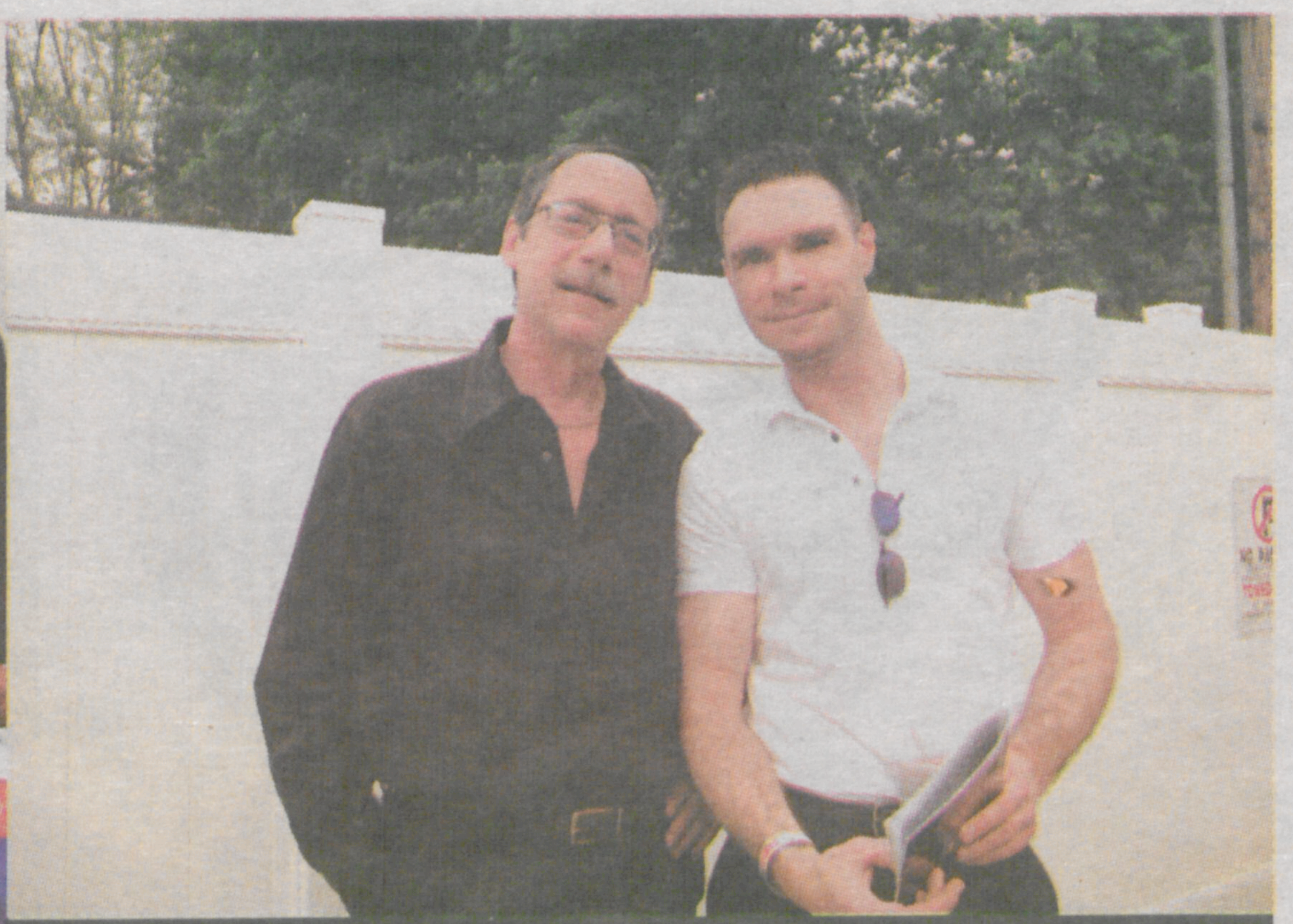
Bikini Witches
see p. 10

Lancaster Renaissance
see p. 26

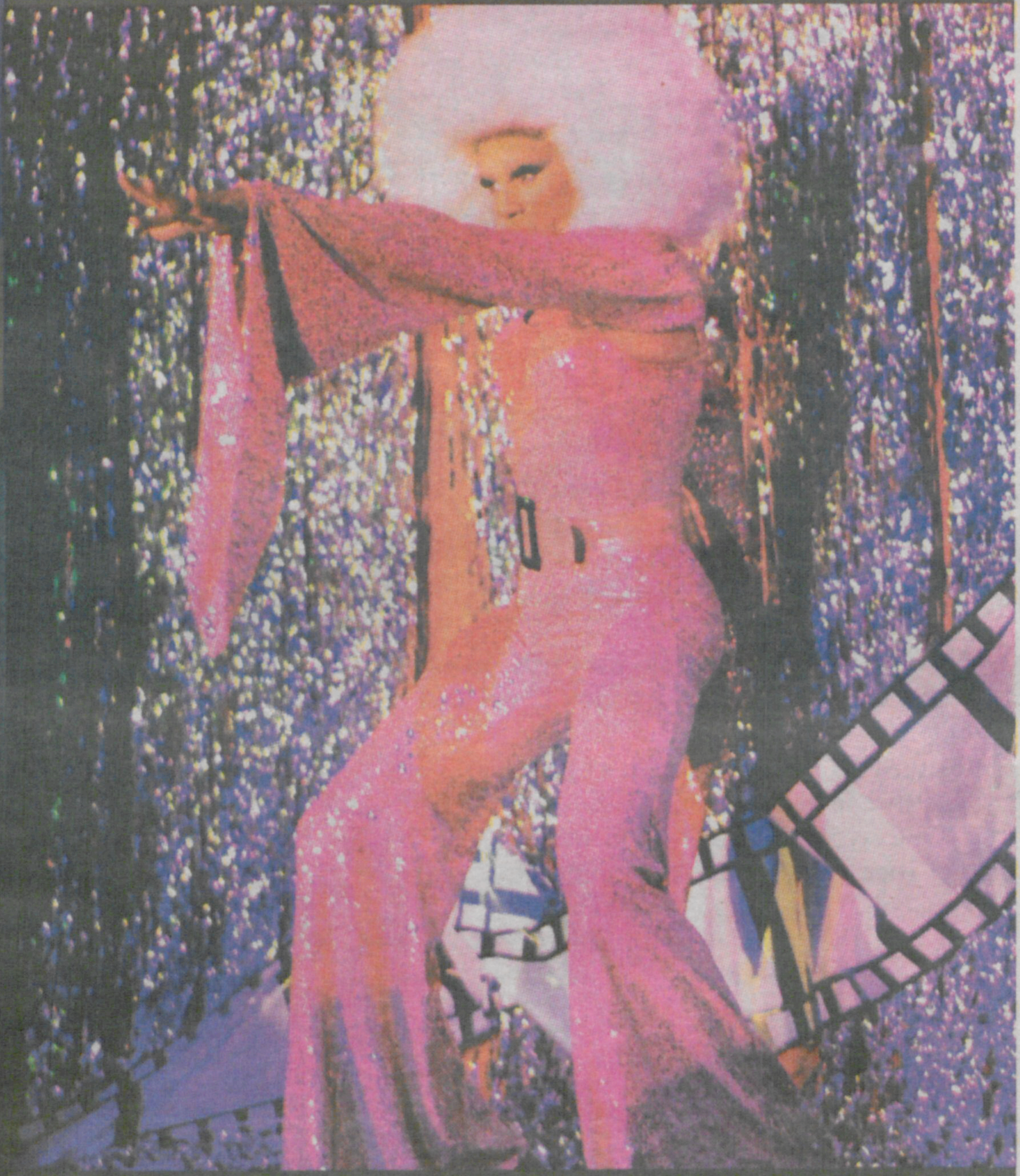
black white party

On Friday, May 2, 2008, Club XS presented the Black and White Party. Partygoers enjoyed food and entertainment from all over Central PA, had the opportunity to bid on amazing items at the Silent Auction and witness the greatness that is RuPaul. All proceeds benefitted The AIDS Fund and Caring Together. $34,447 was raised for these charities.

From left, Brad Gephart, representing The AIDS Fund of South Central PA, Karen McCraw, Family First Health/Caring Together, Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli, and Dave Mulle, Family First Health/Caring Together.



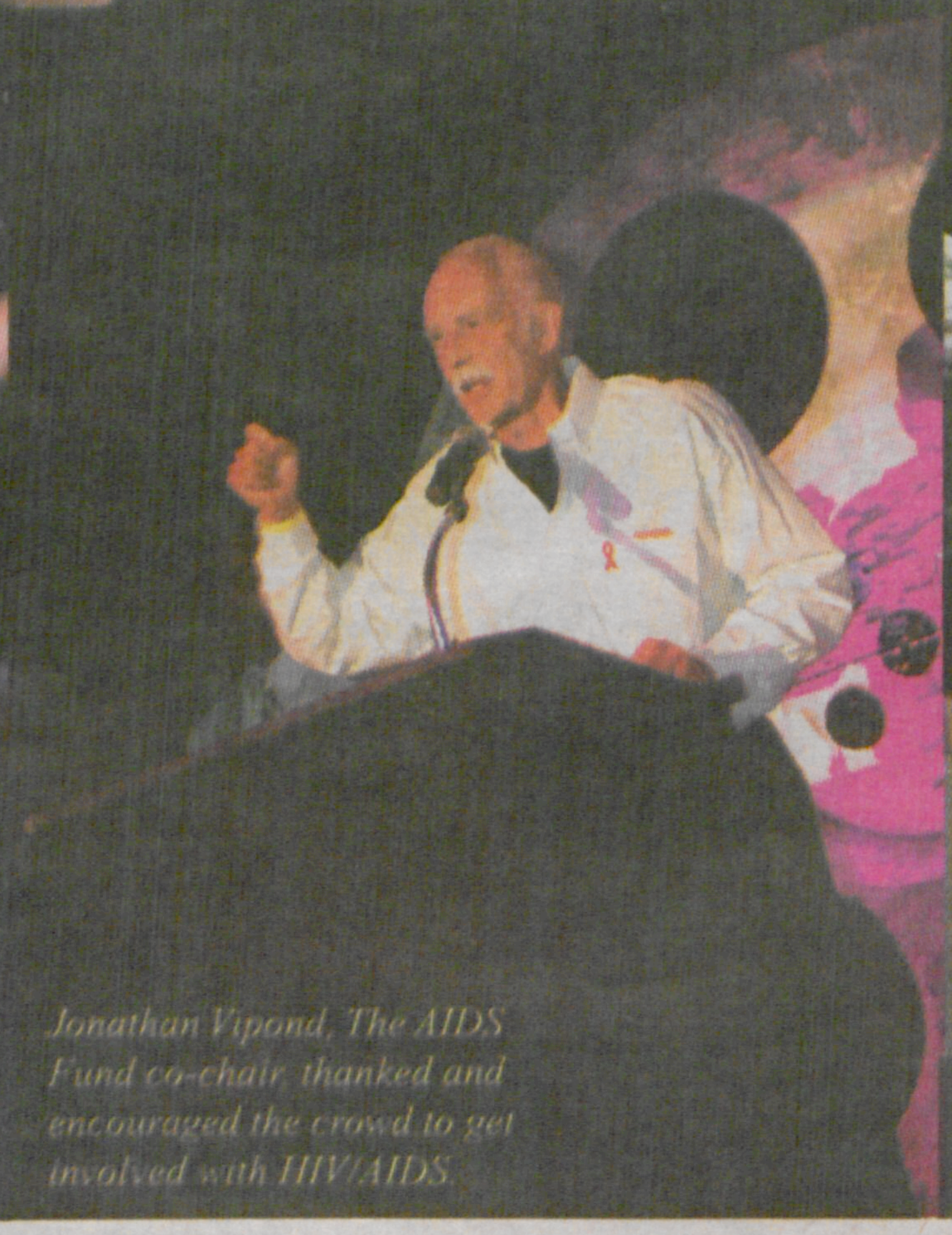
Club XS owner Joel Weinstein and partygoer.



RuPaul regaled stage-rushing partygoers.

Gilead Science's Bill Houk came through again with support for the event.

All That Jazz dance lead Eric B. Mota drew shouts of appreciation from the dance floor



Jonathan Vipond, The AIDS Fund co-chair, thanked and encouraged the crowd to get involved with HIV/AIDS.

Celebs dead and alive showed up for the party. Elvis (Bill Holtzman) and Marilyn Monroe (Jennifer Goodyear) were glad they skipped Heaven that night.

Womyn's Chorus Cooks This Summer

Cynthia Swanson, Mary Nancarrow, and Sandy Boothe sport stylish hairnets and visors in the Farm Show Complex food stand.

The womyn in the Central PA Womyn's Chorus are more than just talented singers. They also grill a great burger and they're putting their culinary talents to use for fundraising.

For the past three years, the chorus has been focusing on food for fundraising. These dedicated womyn have served pizza and hot dogs to patrons of the Pa Farm Show Complex through that organization's fundraising program, which donates back a portion of sales to volunteer nonprofit groups who operate their food stands.

Another successful endeavor has been their own food stand at the Women's Music Festival in Levitt Pavilion in Harrisburg . The third installment of this annual event will be held on September 20, and chorus womyn will be serving up delicious burgers and dogs from the grill. As always, they cater to the vegetarians with an offering of veggie burgers.

Don't' miss this combination of magnificent music and fabulous food. See you at the Festival!

LGBT Center Coalition Hires Staffer

Formed in 2006, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center as both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county gay population

The mission is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness in the service area of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.

The May-June issue of Central Voice reported the Coalition's need for a part-time office m and writer. Since then, the coalition has hired Louis Marven to fill this role. Louis has already begun assisting the board, and is working out of a space leased from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities in the Fulton Bank Building in downtown Harrisburg. He is in the office during business hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and can be reached there at 236-5040. Feel free to call during other times and leave a voicemail, or send him an email at lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

The coalition has developed a website – www.centralpalgbtcenter.org – and hopes that the local lgbt community will use it as a tool to learn about the work being done toward advancing this effort. Most importantly, the website includes a Community Calendar, which is a space for people to obtain and share information on various local lgbt groups. The Community Calendar is extremely user-friendly, so please check it regularly, and submit events that you would like to advertise.

As the coalition moves forward with programming, it knows how important it

Continued on page 12 >

"Law & Disorder" Play about HIV

Harrisburg Department of Parks and Recreation has expands celebration of "Black History Month" into an entire year of educational activities. The "Black History Enrichment Series" has many components, including art contests, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest; NGOZI Martial Arts; Storytelling; NAYO Youth Drumming and Dance Workshops; free National Civil War Museum tours & program presented by The KUUMBA Ensemble of Baltimore, MD; The Summer Enrichment Program; BARAK, Inc., Summer Mural Project; "Drums Along The Susquehanna" during Kipona and drama/poetry workshops.

The Harambee Foundation 2008 Maafa Play "Law & Disorder" at Whitaker Center July 24-26 is also part of the series. The play is a story about a 28 year-old social worker, Karen Wallace, who at the drop of a dime would put anyone else's concerns before her own. However, after a lifetime of helping others, it seems like the end of the world for her when she receives the news that she is HIV positive. As if the news of the virus isn't bad enough, the timing couldn't be any worse, as the city of Harrisburg is facing one of the most controversial trials in its history. The Case of the Stigma Free Alliance Vs. The People's Coalition of Health.

The stakes are high and the search for justice is underway as, human life battles it out against the epidemic of disgrace. There is twist after twist as each side unveils new evidence and information. It is a fight to the finish. Who will win? Who is right in their beliefs? Though matters may resolve in the courtroom, where will either decision leave Karen Wallace?

Information: Monika Ross, 233-3880; www.cdcmaafa.org.

Sharing Our Caring Dinners Now at MCC

"We're back having fun and fellowship," says Patrick Njoroge about the ever popular Sharing Our Caring Dinners for people living with HIV and those affected by the disease. Recently, the dinner group enjoyed the financial support of Sodexo Health Care, affiliated with Pinnacle Health System's REAACH Program, a treatment-based program for individuals and families dealing with HIV. Staff from the health system's REACCH Program helped to prepare the meal.

"There are so many ways volunteers can help," says Sol Vazquez. Njoroge and Vazquez are co-chairs of the Social Justice Committee at Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit. Interested parties can pick from a list of need food items – cheese, pasta, rice, beverages – and pledge to provide the food.

MCC decided to continue the dinners after they enjoyed the support of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, which had opened their doors to the group. The dinners are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg. Contact: 236-7387; www.mccofthespirit.org.

find more
community voice
on pages 27-29

Isaac's David Leas Receives Community Service Award

David M. Leas, vice president, Isaac's Restaurant and Deli, May 2 received the John Folby Award for Excellence in HIV AIDS. The award is part of Black & White, an annual benefit presented by York's Club XS.

"By black and white we mean that HIV and AIDS is everyone's problem. It's a black and white issue in 2008," says event producer Charles Oswald, Club XS manager.

"David Leas has been a foundation of support to the region with his many contributions to improving life for people who live with HIV," Oswald says. Leas is presently co-chair of the AIDS FUND of South Central Pennsylvania, a position he has held for the past two years. He had served on the Board of Directors for AIDS Community Alliance for six years and has been a relentless advocate for those infected and affected by HIV.

David Leas

Leas conceptualized and organized the first DINE OUT fundraising event in 1992 and had been involved with the organizing committee for 14 years. This started in Lancaster and recruited area restaurants to donate a portion of their receipts to help fight HIV/AIDS in the community. The event later grew to include the Harrisburg and York areas and has raised more than $400,000 over the years.

Leas has been employed by Isaac's Restaurant and Deli since 1987. He is currently Vice President, a position he has held since May 1989.

Prior to Isaac's, Leas and his previous partner owned and operated a restaurant/nightclub at the Railroad House in Marietta, PA in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Leas served as Vice-President and President of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County chapter of the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association. Presently he serves on the Board of Directors for the PA Restaurant Association and previously served as chair of the Membership Committee.

He resides in Elizabethtown, PA with his partner Ben Dunlap.

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Central to your life.

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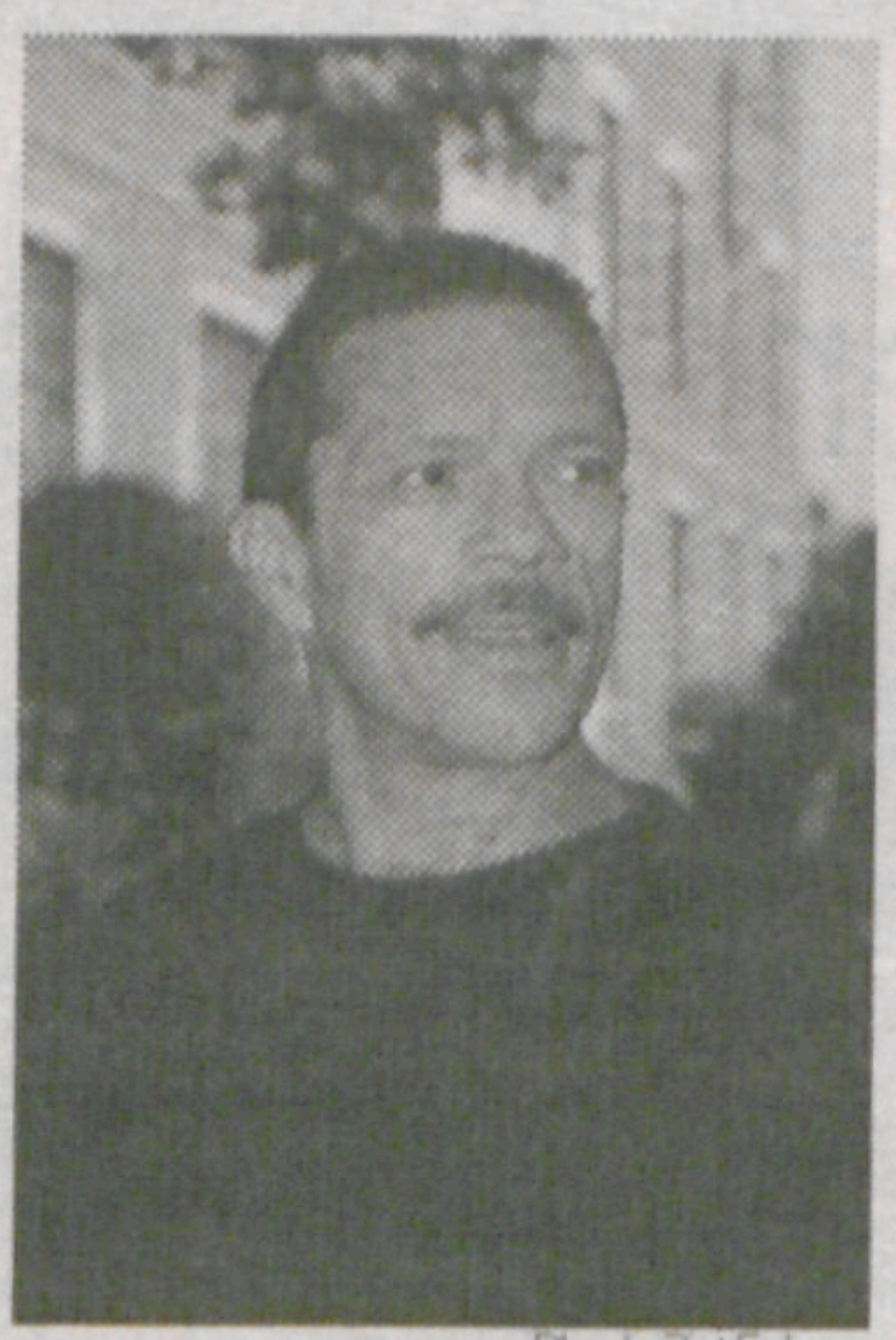
"Better things to do" Most Say about Tabled Marriage Amendment



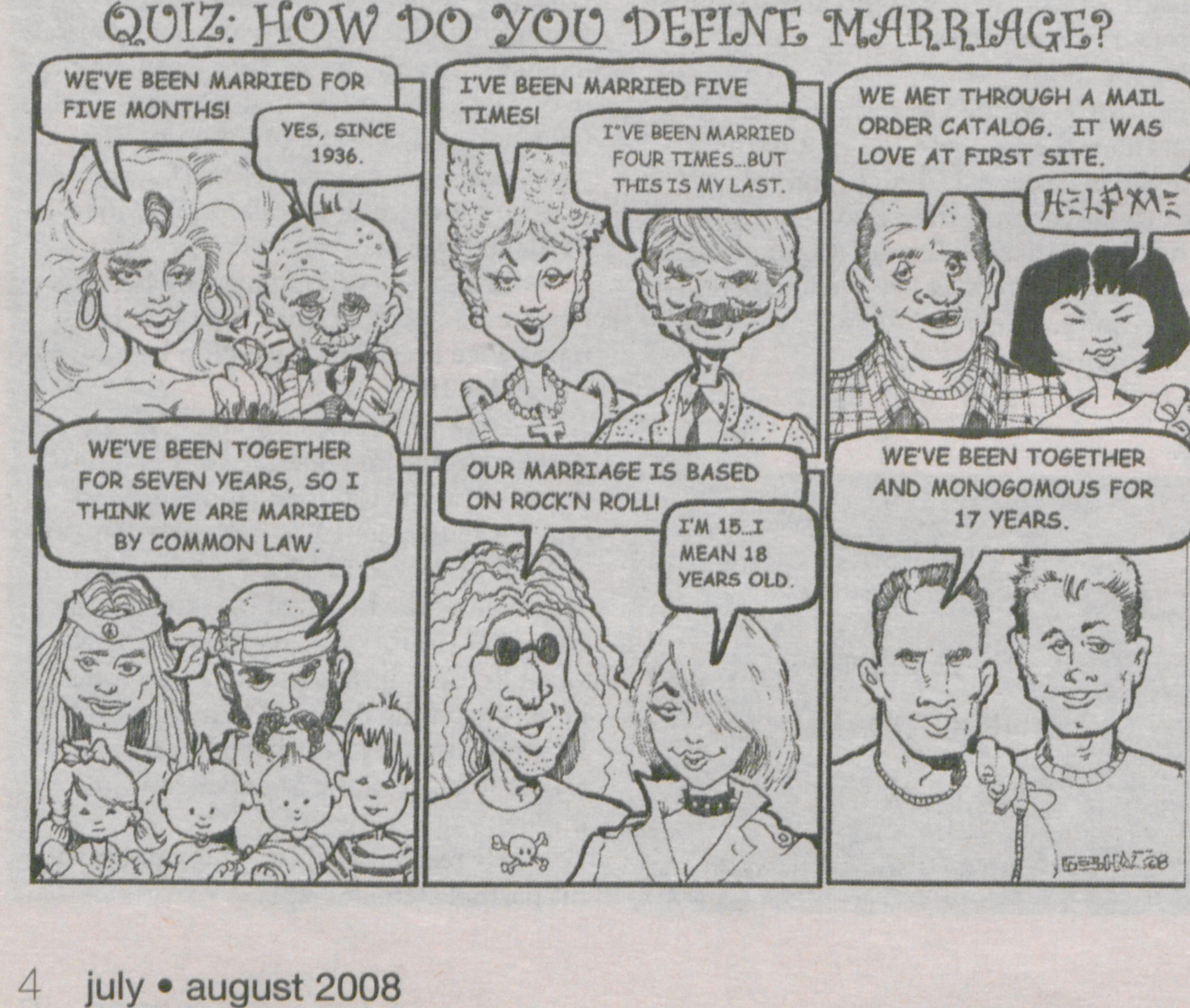
Frank Pizzoli

Within 24 hours of the May 5 gay marriage and civil union rally in the capital rotunda, stalwart friend of our community Alanna Berger emailed that the state Senate indefinitely tabled Senate Bill 1250 "for many reasons that are not likely to change" according to a source in Sen. Gibson Armstrong's office. One reason is that the House apparently indicated it will not move on the controversial constitutional amendment. (See photos Page 30.)

Next, California Supreme Court ruled in favor of nuptials for same-sex couples followed by New York Gov. David Paterson directing all state agencies to recognize unions performed in Massachusetts, Canada and other jurisdictions where they are legal. In a turn of events, the California Secretary of State, Debra Bowen, certified the California Marriage Protection Act for the November 2008 ballot, giving voters another shot at defining marriage as one man, one woman. A recent poll conducted on May 30 shows that 56% of California residents support marriage as one man and one woman.

Not missing a bigoted beat, U.S. Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA) then introduced a Defense of Marriage (DOMA) amendment to the U.S. Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman. PA Rep. John Peterson (R-5th Dist.) is a co-sponsor.

Bob Barr, one of the federal DOMA's 1996 primary authors, now Libertarian prexy candidate and former Georgia Congressman, calls renewed efforts to define marriage as a "mistake." Barr suffered his own "family values" crisis in 1992 when he licked whipped cream from a woman's breast (not a bad idea in private) at a public fundraiser. He called for Bill Clinton's resignation on "moral" grounds.


QUIZ: HOW DO YOU DEFINE MARRIAGE?
WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR FIVE MONTHS!
YES, SINCE 1936.
I'VE BEEN MARRIED FIVE TIMES!
I'VE BEEN MARRIED FOUR TIMES...BUT THIS IS MY LAST.
WE MET THROUGH A MAIL ORDER CATALOG. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SITE.
HELP ME
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SEVEN YEARS, SO I THINK WE ARE MARRIED BY COMMON LAW.
OUR MARRIAGE IS BASED ON ROCK'N ROLL!
I'M 15...I MEAN 18 YEARS OLD.
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER AND MONOGOMOUS FOR 17 YEARS.

As Central Voice advised readers in our last issue, most observers of the General Assembly's latest attempt to ban gay marriage and civil unions thought the measure had little chance of passing.

While a vociferous crowd of about 150 chanted "Stop this bill!," we sampled opinions among the diverse crowd that included several Planned Parenthood chapters, the Pennsylvania ACLU, lots of collared clergy, Central Baptist Church, Universalist Unitarian congregations from central Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, State College, Lehigh Valley, and Philadelphia.

"I don't think the amendment stands a real chance, maybe a better chance in the Senate than in the House," said Russ Boggs, president, Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Capital Region Stonewall Democrats co-chair Jeff Welshen agreed, saying the measure has "a good chance of passing in the Senate, not in the House. It all depends on how much pandering they do to small minorities."

"Slim to none," forecast Jennifer Storm, executive director, Dauphin County Victim and Witness Program. "Aren't we supposed to be passing a state budget about now," she asked? Pride chair Dave Walker commented "The state has better things to do with its resources."

more photos pg 30

"It's good that we have Democrats controlling the House," noted Harrisburg city council member Dan Miller. Although "marriage" is center stage, Miller is equally concerned that statewide residents have no job protections, although 14 municipalities do have various laws in place. Lack of employment protections, many feel, is a far more serious situation than the ongoing fight among church, state, and secular advocates.

"How many people realize that by standing in the capital rotunda they could be seen on television tonight and be fired in Pennsylvania since we have no job protections," Miller asks? In the mid 1990s, he was fired from a job after appearing in a local television news story addressing the problem of violence against gay men in downtown Harrisburg. Miller lived in Harrisburg, which has job protection, but worked in Camp Hill which does not. Before its final defeat, Miller's case went all the way to the US Supreme Court.

Up and coming young activist Alex Reber thinks the amendment has "a 100 percent chance of passing the Senate but will be killed in the House." Marcella Drake says "Slim chance of passing, At least I hope so."

The first openly gay Pittsburgh city councilman Bruce Kraus was more cautious. "It could go either way" referring to the Senate and House chambers. Walker fears the issue is "too close to call" when it comes to the electorate.

When Kraus ran in 2007, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette called him "a forceful and articulate advocate for the district," and said his "citizen involvement and his independent voice," make him the best choice. Experienced onlookers in the crowd compared Miller to Kraus, noting their similar leadership styles.

Sen. Babette Josephs drew the loudest hoots of approval when she approached the podium citing the "misinformation and outright lies" circulated by supporters of the amendment. Supporters would have the public believe queers will invade their churches and demand to be marriage. Truth is that no legislative allowance of either marriage or civil unions or both would force churches to marry anyone. If a church doesn't want to marry queers, they don't have to perform a ceremony against their beliefs. Likewise, if queers find themselves in churches that won't marry them, they can simply find churches that want them.

Are we surprised Jesus-loving Christians and professional Catholics fearful of, well, almost everything, would lie? No. In the landmark second Scope's Trail on intelligent design in York several years ago, the judge noted in his opinion how easily those pushing intelligent design could lie to achieve their ends. Contrary to what these zealots preach I guess there is such a thing as "situation ethics" and the rules are sometimes fluid.

Lebanon Valley College's Rev. Paul Fullmer stated his passionate belief that gay civil rights is a simple matter of basic civil rights.

Sen. Jim Gerlach referred to the 18 senators who voted the measure out of committee as the group assembled as "18 senators running around and looking in your bedrooms." I am reminded of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover who lived a lifetime with his partner Clyde Tolson, Hoover's heir. Hoover loved to spy on "homosexuals" and use it against them as leverage. An old queen once told me the worst homophobe is a gay homophobe.

Sen. Vincent Fumo, D-Philadelphia, said, "When the basic human rights are threatened, then no one's rights are safe." Sen. Connie Williams, D-Montgomery, noted, "Pennsylvania's constitution was never intended to be a tool that restricts people's rights."

Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, said he was taught in school that the constitution was put there to protect individuals' rights, so "it takes a lot of chutzpah to talk about putting discrimination into the constitution of Pennsylvania." Sen. John Gordner, R-Columbia, who supports the amendment said the words "functional equivalent of marriage" are needed "to prevent something that would be civil unions."

Frank Pizzoli continued on page 30 >

voice box

“I’m Sad Too Bishop Rhoades…As a faithful, queer member of St. Patrick’s Church, I’m sad but not surprised by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoads reaction to not getting his way. After California’s ruling striking down their gay marriage ban, he said he was “sad but not surprised.” If the Catholic Church wants to fully enter the political arena, then let’s lobby to have their tax-free status taken away. Fair is fair.

- By Anonymous

Huge mistake…I think our community and leaders have made a huge mistake by making “marriage” our top issue. Lack of job protections affects so many more people. And they made the situation worse by confusing church vs. state. We should all fight for “civil unions” and let the definition of marriage to churches. Let churches who want to marry us do so. Let churches that don’t refuse us. Let’s force the state to recognize that two adults can willingly engage in a loving relationship and deserve the civil right to protect themselves, their wishes, and their assets.

- Chad

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

In The Tank - Business Leaders Say State’s Economy Has Gotten Worse

By Lincoln Institute

your voice

Pennsylvania business leaders report a gloomy assessment of the state’s economy in the recent Spring 2008 Keystone Business Climate Survey conducted by the Lincoln Institute of Public Opinion Research, Inc.

In the most pessimistic result of the survey’s 14-year history, 59% of the employers surveyed said the state’s business climate has gotten worse over the last six months; just 6% say the Pennsylvania economy has improved.

Business perceptions of the state’s economy have trended negative for the past two years. However, the current survey shows a deepening of that trend. One year ago the Keystone Business Climate Survey found 49% of business leaders felt the state’s economy was getting worse. The September 2007 survey was a bit more optimistic, as 42% said the economy had gotten worse in the preceding six months. But, over the past six months views again turned sharply negative resulting in 59% saying the state’s economy is deteriorating.

Looking ahead the business leaders responding to the survey expect things to get worse before they get better. Thirty-six percent say they anticipate worsening business conditions over the coming six months, 17% expect the state’s economy to improve, and 45% think it will stay about the same.

Despite the worsening of the overall economy employment levels appear to be holding relatively steady. Sixty-three

Continued on page 29>

America’s Banks Are Safe and Sound

By Diane Casey-Landry
American Bankers Association

your voice

Headlines can be misleading, and in a time of financial crisis, that can make matters worse. Pick up a paper, or listen to the quick bursts of news on TV or radio, and what you get are reports of a subprime crisis, a “banking” crisis and market turmoil.

Let’s set the record straight: There is no banking crisis. The banking industry – traditional federally insured, federally regulated depository institutions – your local commercial bank, thrift or savings bank – is safe and sound. There is no crisis there.

The challenge we are facing is that words matter. And when one word is used to mean several different things, it inevitably creates confusion. For example, we know what a bank is—or at least we think we do. Sometimes a business that wants to add status to its name will call itself a bank even though it is not an insured depository institution.

Bear Stearns was not a commercial bank. It was not an insured depository institution. It was an investment “bank.”

The word bank is also applied to mortgage firms. Their function, their purpose and their regulation differ from federally insured depository institutions. And in this time of market turmoil, it is worthwhile remembering that commercial banks, thrifts and savings banks carry FDIC insurance. So if there were a problem, it wouldn’t matter to depositors who are protected up to $100,000 for an account, with additional protection for joint accounts, and $250,000 for a retirement account.

Yes, there are challenges in today’s market economy. But having a safe and sound banking system to rely on shows the importance of the role banks play in our local communities and in our nation’s economy. They are the source of stability and of growth. That is true regardless of their asset size, their charter or their business plan. And the vast majority of banks today hold more capital than the law requires.

Today’s crisis also underscores the fact that there are two ways financial institutions can fail. They can fail due to capital insolvency or because they are liquidity insolvent. What we are experiencing now is a lack of liquidity, not a lack of capital.

Continued on page 29>

Of Energy and Politics

By Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future

your voice

In energy and in politics, these are times of change.

During the last 10 years the prices of oil, natural gas, and now coal have increased about five times or 400 percent. Higher fossil fuel prices are adding to our economic pain and soon will be reflected in electricity bills, since we make 70 percent of our electricity from burning fossil fuels. Electricity rate caps in Pennsylvania that capped prices at 1996 levels have ended in six electricity service territories and will end throughout the state by January 2010.

Governor Rendell has been sounding the alarm since February 2007 on energy prices, urging swift passage of a package of energy bills that will create new great green jobs and give consumers practical tools to cut their electricity bills. The governor even forced a brief shutdown of state government last July to try and win approval of this package. Then, he was much criticized for linking the energy bills to passage of the state budget by Republican leaders and others.

Now in April 2008, fourteen months after Governor Rendell called for new energy policies, two critical energy bills have passed the House of Representative and await action in the State Senate. The fate of these bills is being driven by politics and will impact state politics as well as consumers, our economy, and our environment.

House Bill 2200 (HB 2200), the energy savings bill, would create major electricity conservation programs in every part of the state, giving families and businesses the tools and information they need to use energy smarter and cheaper. In addition to the current single pricing plan that charges consumers the same price for electricity whenever it is used, the bill would require every utility to offer consumers a choice of two more electricity pricing plans that would allow consumers to save money by using electricity when it is cheaper. Overall HB 2200 would cut the total electricity con-

Continued on page 29>

letters to the editor

“Great Feedback”

My parents have been getting lots of great feedback about my article, especially from people at my church where it has been posted. Thank you!

-Ian Forster, LOGO & Central Voice Intern

“Whitaker”

Great job!

-Stephen F. Krempasky, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

“Merrill Lynch”

The ad looks great. Thank you.

-Harold R. Walters, Merrill Lynch

“Very Pleased”

Thanks so much for the article (on family court ruling). I thought it looked great and everyone here at the firm is very pleased.

- Suzanne S. Friday, Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall, LLP

“Better and Better”

I must say that the paper is just getting better and better. I thought our article looked great.

-Pam Parson, Nightingale Health and Wellness Services

“Interest”

We wanted to thank you for the story in the May-June issue. We have already gotten interest from it.

-Bryan Campbell, Brass Monkey Studios

“Looks Great”

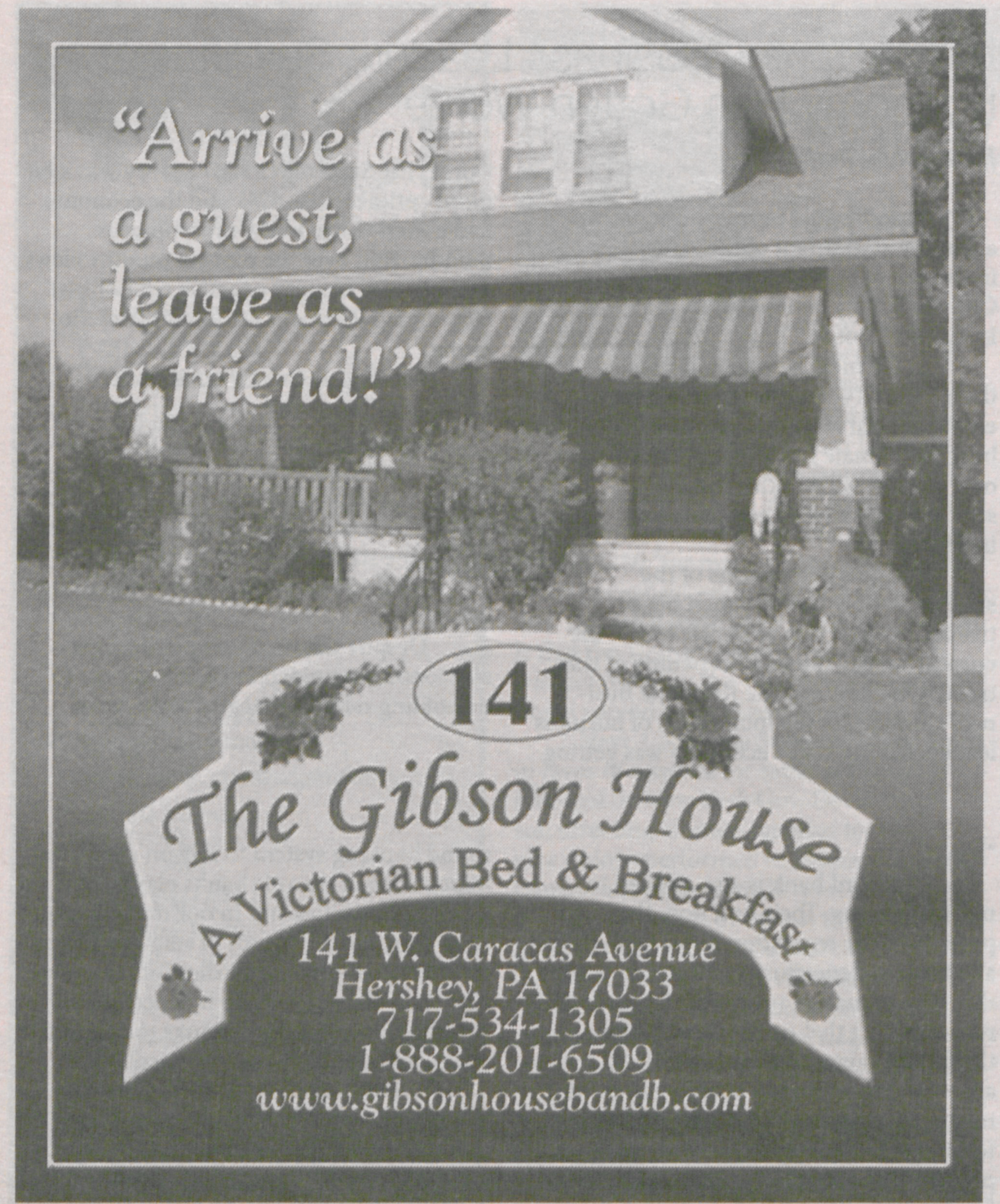
Copy arrived in today’s mail. The article looks great, I’m sure my subject artist Kathryn Pannepacker will be very happy!

-Debra Miller, Writer & Reader

“Wonderful”

You publish a wonderful newspaper.

-Greta



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Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Providing a safe space and caring support for transgender individuals, family, friends & allies as well as gender education and outreach to universities, businesses, government & non-profit agencies.

Meetings: First Saturday each month, meeting starts at 8 PM
Location: Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
Parking available in secure, low-traffic area.
Alcohol is not permitted.

July 5- No meeting
August 2- Meeting, visit our website for more information!
September 6- Meeting, visit our website for more information!
October 4- Meeting, visit our website for more information!

email: info@transcentralpa.org
www.transcentralpa.org

lesbian notions

Reclaiming Christ with Local Filmmaker Daniel Karslake & Soulforce

by Libby Post

Edward R. Murrow, the pioneering journalist, was right about television - if it is used to educate people, it could have an amazing impact. In the case of one gay teen in Iowa in 1998, TV not only educated him, it saved his life.

After seeing a segment about Harvard theologian Rev. Irene Monroe on PBS' "In the Life," the youth in question wrote an e-mail to the segment's producer, Daniel Karslake. The e-mail read, "Last week I bought the gun. Yesterday I wrote the note. But last night I happened to turn on your show, and just knowing that someday I might be able to go back into my church, I threw the gun in the river. My mom never has to know."

Reading that e-mail was the beginning of a journey for Karslake.

"I couldn't fathom that this kid was going to kill himself because of what he thought the story of Jesus was," Karslake told me in a recent interview. "Gay kids are pushed to suicide because of Christianity. It's what should save them, but it's been twisted so much for so long. This kid changed his mind because here was one person of faith [Monroe] who was also openly lesbian and proud of being both. There were so many stories we needed to start telling. We could save more lives."

Karslake told his "In the Life" boss that he wanted the LGBT religion beat. His focus eventually turned into a feature-length film that is taking the country's pulpits, classrooms, and movie theaters by storm: "For the Bible Tells Me So."

The spiritual violence of the radical Christian right became palpable to me as I watched the film. Even though I'm a Jew, I truly felt the pain of Christian families with LGBT members. Before, it was just another political issue for me to rally around and write about. During the 99 minutes of the film, I heard and felt the stories of five very American, very Christian families who have struggled with reconciling their religion with the very real fact that they have lesbian or gay children.

The Reitans from Minnesota are one of those families.

These were people I knew - literally. I had interviewed Phil and Randi a few years back about their son, Jake, whose coming-out had taken their family on an amazing journey. Their unconditional love for Jake outweighed their Lutheran church's teachings, and they soon found themselves sharing his passion for bringing Christ's real message of love and inclusion to LGBT-excluding college campuses and organizations through Soulforce's Equality Rides.

Go see the film, and you'll experience their family. (You can check out the film's trailer or find out about screenings at the movie's website, www.forthebibletellsmeso.org.)

Together, they travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., to challenge the homophobia of James Dobson and Focus on the Family. Together, they are arrested. Together, they make the point that Christianity is not what the radical Christian right says it is.

"Churches should be the place that welcomes the outcast," Randi told me during my interview with Karslake, who was sitting with the Reitans in their home, eating Chinese takeout after a day of lobbying together for OutFront Minnesota. "Instead, churches are making people into outcasts. The film helps us share with pastors how many people have been hurt, how they long to come back and feel welcome. It's time for pastors to lead their congregations and no longer be silent about LGBT rights."

The Reitans have been touring with the film, so to speak. Whenever it is shown within a few hours of their home, they go and participate in the question-and-answer period that inevitably follows a screening. They have also been taking it to churches. In fact, after showing it in one small Methodist church in Minnesota, the congregation wanted to know what they could do "help the situation." Phil and Randi told them it would be great if they could make the _For the Bible Tells Me So_ DVD available to the folks at the Methodist national convention happening soon in Ft. Worth, Texas.

A group of Lutheran ministers asked Randi and Phil to be part of a Q&A session after watching the film. The Reitans said all the ministers were visibly moved.

"As they discussed it afterwards, they made each other braver," said Phil. "They started to see they wouldn't be out there all by themselves if they took a stand. It helped them along on their journey."

That journey is also being taken by what Karslake calls "straight people who are conflicted."

He explains how people come up to him after seeing the film and tell him they've been sitting in their church pews for decades, feeling really conflicted about what their pastors have to say about the LGBT issue. They tell him, "Jesus embraced outcasts... it makes no sense that LGBT people are put outside the Kingdom of God. I'm going to talk with my preacher. I want him to explain how we're not all God's children." Others have told him that they left the church because the way the LGBT issue was handled didn't jive with their understanding of who Christ was. "But I'm a Christian," one viewer told Karslake. "The film makes me feel like I can go back to church."

Changing hearts and minds in the red states is what Karslake had in mind when he made the film. It seems to be working.

"Much of our country is really part of that movable middle. 'For the Bible Tells Me So' helps educate," explained Phil. "Those who see it start to understand what the discrimination is, so it becomes their issue."

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

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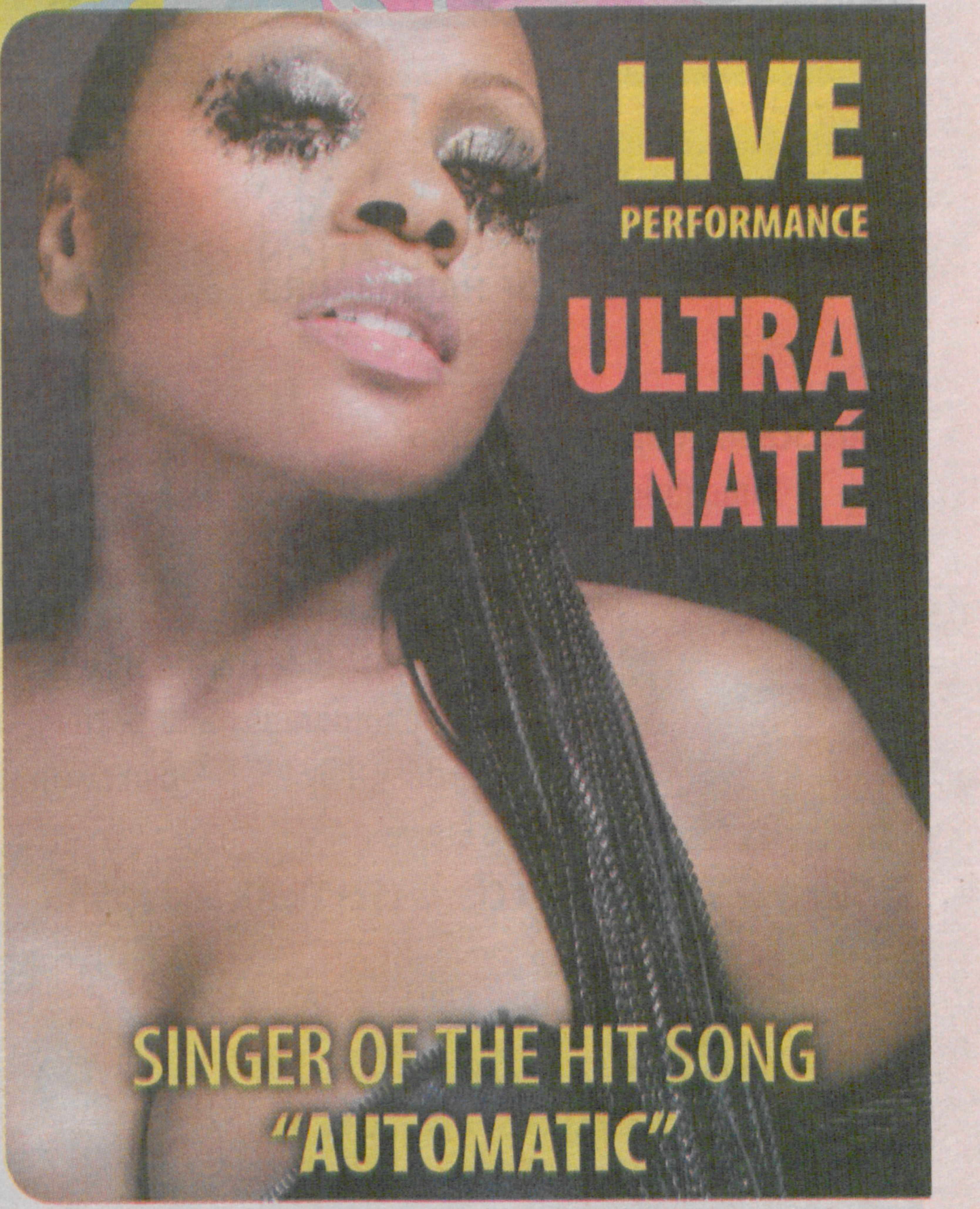
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- **Summer Semester Art Classes For Youth and Adults**
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Your 15 Minutes Will Never Be Up!

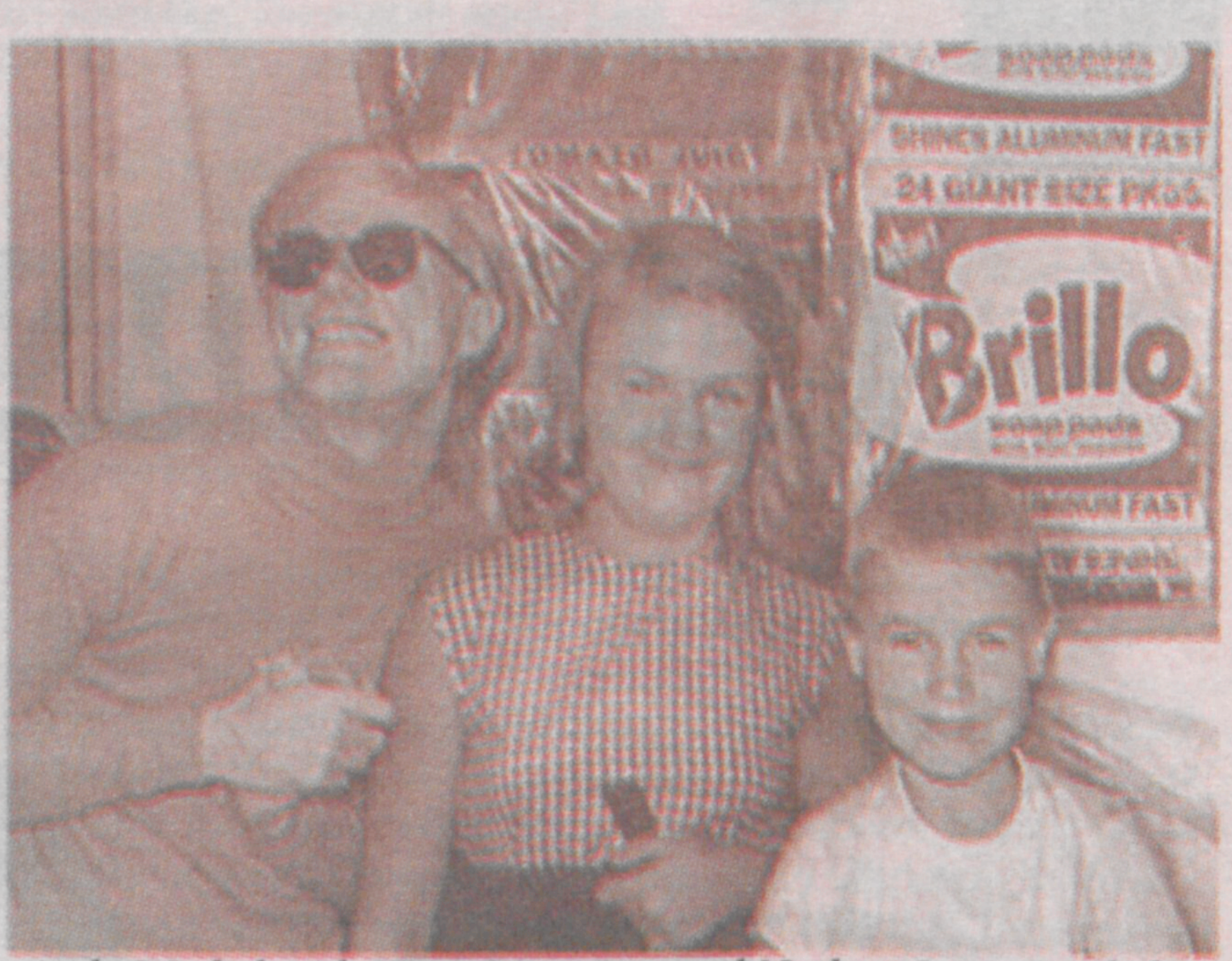
BY DEB MILLER

Andy Warhol would have celebrated his 80th birthday on August 6. It's hard to believe he's gone, especially since his impact on the art and culture of our times remains immeasurable. Reality TV would be unthinkable without Andy's experimental films of the 1960s, with no scripted dialogue, only scenarios, and his Superstars just being themselves. As Andy said, if they'd had to audition for the roles, they wouldn't have been right for them!

There would have been no Brokeback Mountain in 2005, without Andy's Lonesome Cowboys of 1968. Pittsburgh would not have the largest single-artist museum in the world, and the Warhola family would not have had the inspiration to become artists themselves and to continue his legacy.

Andy epitomized the cult of the artist, and became as famous as his familiar Pop Art subjects. He will remain as much a part of our culture as Marilyn, Elvis, and Jackie, as Campbell's Soup cans and Brillo boxes, as the electric chair and race riots. For those of us who were captivated by The Factory and its creative young denizens, the glittering silver studio was the real Camelot of the '60s, not the Kennedy White House.

Andy wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth, or with any socio-political connections; everything he achieved in his life was through his own hard work and talent. He had the uncanny ability to zero-in on the essence of our consumer society and to preserve it for posterity. There is an almost archaeological exactitude in his art—it is so site- and time-specific that it is New York in the 1960s. He had the gaze of an artist; he always looked, to see, to remember. His bold graphic designs, his mass-produced silkscreens, his saturated psychedelic colors, and his inflated scale of everyday objects all attest to his unmatched skill of recognizing beauty in the mundane, and of creating art that made others see it too. Above all, Andy was a master of understatement, saying simply that "Pop Art is a way of liking things."



Andy Warhol with Niece Mary Lou and Nephew Jamie Warhola, 1963; photo courtesy of Mary Lou Simpson.

Happy Birthday, Andy! We miss you, and celebrate your undying vision, creativity, and talent. Though a day doesn't go by without us hearing about someone "being famous for 15 minutes," your 15 minutes will never be up!

Editor's Note: In 2003, Central Voice publisher and editor hung out with James (Jamie) Warhola, nephew of Andy Warhol, for his Philadelphia book signing and art show at the Da Vinci Art Alliance on Catherine Street. Jamie's sister Madalen (who produces Warhola Wear), was also in attendance, as were other family members. The event was orchestrated by Deb Miller, a Warhola family friend. Himself a successful artist, Jamie spent lots of time with his pop art icon uncle, whom he remembers in his children's book "Uncle Andy's: A Faabbbulous Visit with Andy Warhol." The story takes place over one weekend during Andy's breakthrough year of 1962 — the year in which he had his first show and introduced the world to paintings of Campbell's Soup Cans, Marilyns and Elvises.

L to R: Abby Hoover (Madelen's daughter, Jamie's niece), Madelen Warhola Hoover (Jamie's sister, Andy's niece), Oonagh Carroll-Warhola (Jamie's daughter, Madelen's niece), James Warhola, art historian and family friend Deb Miller, and Central Voice publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli standing in back.

Art & Philanthropy Join Hands

The adage of what goes around comes around couldn't be more true in regards to the "The Ladies' Half, A Giving Circle" of Cumberland County. Founded in 2003, the group combines social events and charitable giving. In 2006, The Ladies' Half teamed up with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), where members are responsible to make annual membership contributions.

In the spirit of paying forward, this organization focuses on philanthropic social circles that benefit families and organizations within the communities in which they reside. This trend of giving is more than just donating money as a team, but also requires each member to participate their time and talent to succeed in each community mission. The local "giving circle: has granted $7000 to local smaller non-profits and sponsored the "Gifts that Give" fair which raised $20,000 for local charities.

In order to spread the word about this valuable network, The Ladies' Half held Wine & Cheese Social May 8 at Harrisburg's Arts at 510. Included in the informative evening was a special showing of artwork by Harrisburg's Women Create, one of the recipients of their efforts.

Arts at 510 owner Susan Schreckengaust recently said, "This is one of the best organizations to come along. You know that your time and money make a real difference in South Central Pennsylvania. In this day and age of philanthropic organizations, I have found this to be designed to not only benefit the recipients, but give back tremendous emotional reward to those who are involved."

The Ladies' Half also has a program, "The Kids' Half" which gets children involved and educates them on responsibility caring and giving to the community. Many other projects and fundraisers, including the area's first Alternative Gift Fair.

For more information on how you can become a member of The Ladies' Half, e-mail info@theladieshalf.org or visit www.theladieshalf.org.

ARTS at 510, is located at 510 North Third Street, Harrisburg, is open Tues.-Fri., 11-6; Sat.,10-3, with extended hours for artist receptions. Contact; 717.724.0364; www.artsat510.com.

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717.238.5180

THE FORUM

Music of Marvin Gaye - July 26, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets $55 & $45
Jason Miles presents "Celebrating the Music of Marvin Gaye" Featuring Bobby Caldwell, Maysa, Nick Colionne, James "D" Train Williams, Everette Harp & more. Presented by the South Central PA Sickle Cell Council and Smooth Jazz 92.7

SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER

The Tear Jar - An Original Blues show
August 7-8, 8 p.m.
Tickets $25 online or 717/214-ARTS
Musical stage presentation

WHITAKER UNDERGROUND AT STAGE TWO

E.J. Kight, The Georgia Songbird - August 9, 8 p.m.
Tickets $18 online or 717/214-ARTS
The Georgia Songbird - Scorching blues with special guest Nate Myers and the Aces

SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER

Girls Night Out - August 12-17, 8 p.m., Tues-Sat, 3 p.m. Sun.
Tickets $35 & $31 for groups of 10 or more
Musical comedy theatre

Witches in Bikinis - August 23, 8 p.m.
Tickets $18 online or 717/214-ARTS
Brooklyn-based theatrical pop/rock performance group blends horror, sci-fi, and surfing into a unique rock 'n roll experience.

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Peter Frampton
Since the '70s, Peter Frampton has owned the title as one of the biggest arena rock stars, building his live concert reputation through extensive touring and exciting concert presence. Decades later, Frampton is still navigating through a diverse range of materials from American soul and roots to Latin balladry to all-out, fret-splitting rock. This summer Frampton performs at Hershey Theatre August 12, 8 p.m. Info: peterframpton.com. Recently historic Hershey Theatre was recognized by Pollstar magazine as among world's top theaters, registering in at No. 43 in ticket sales.

TOTEM POLE PLAYHOUSE

Totem Pole Playhouse brought in summer with a successful Fun Fest free for children and adults. The recent event even included a yard sale. They even had backstage tours hosted by Mister Ed of Mister Ed's Elephant Museum & Candy Outlet fame. The day included displays of costuming, set design and the art of stage make-up include face painting. Russ Smith and Maxx Anker, Chambersburg Magic Club, performed magic. The Children's Theatre featured sock puppets, theatrical masks and funky hats and the kids built their own small tee pee and totem pole. The Shippensburg Blaskapelle German Band performed. Ray Ficca was recently named Totem Pole Playhouse artistic director. Ficca is graduated from Georgetown University and holds a Diploma from the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. He has over 100 professional stage credits from theatres in New York, Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Ohio.

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Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters

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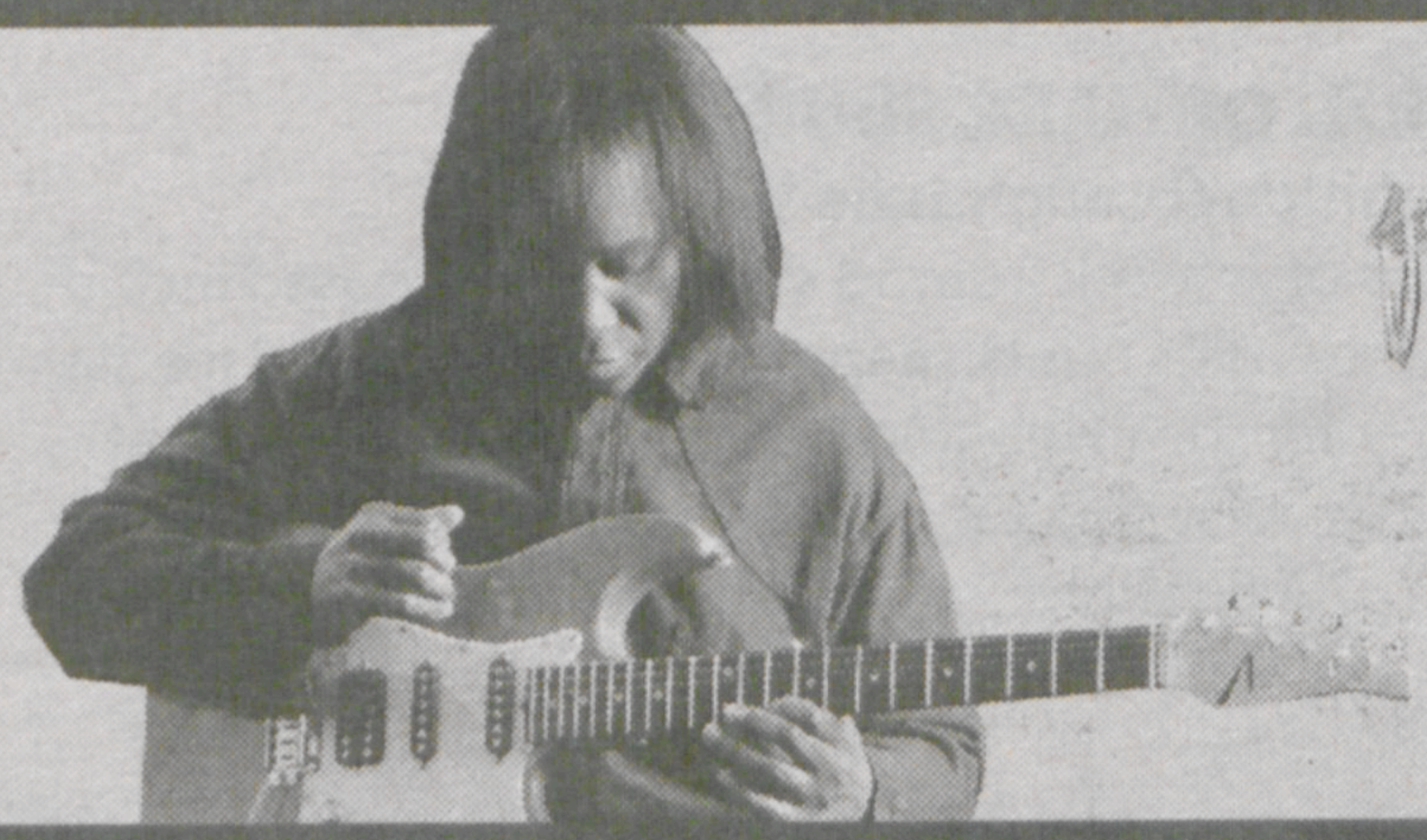
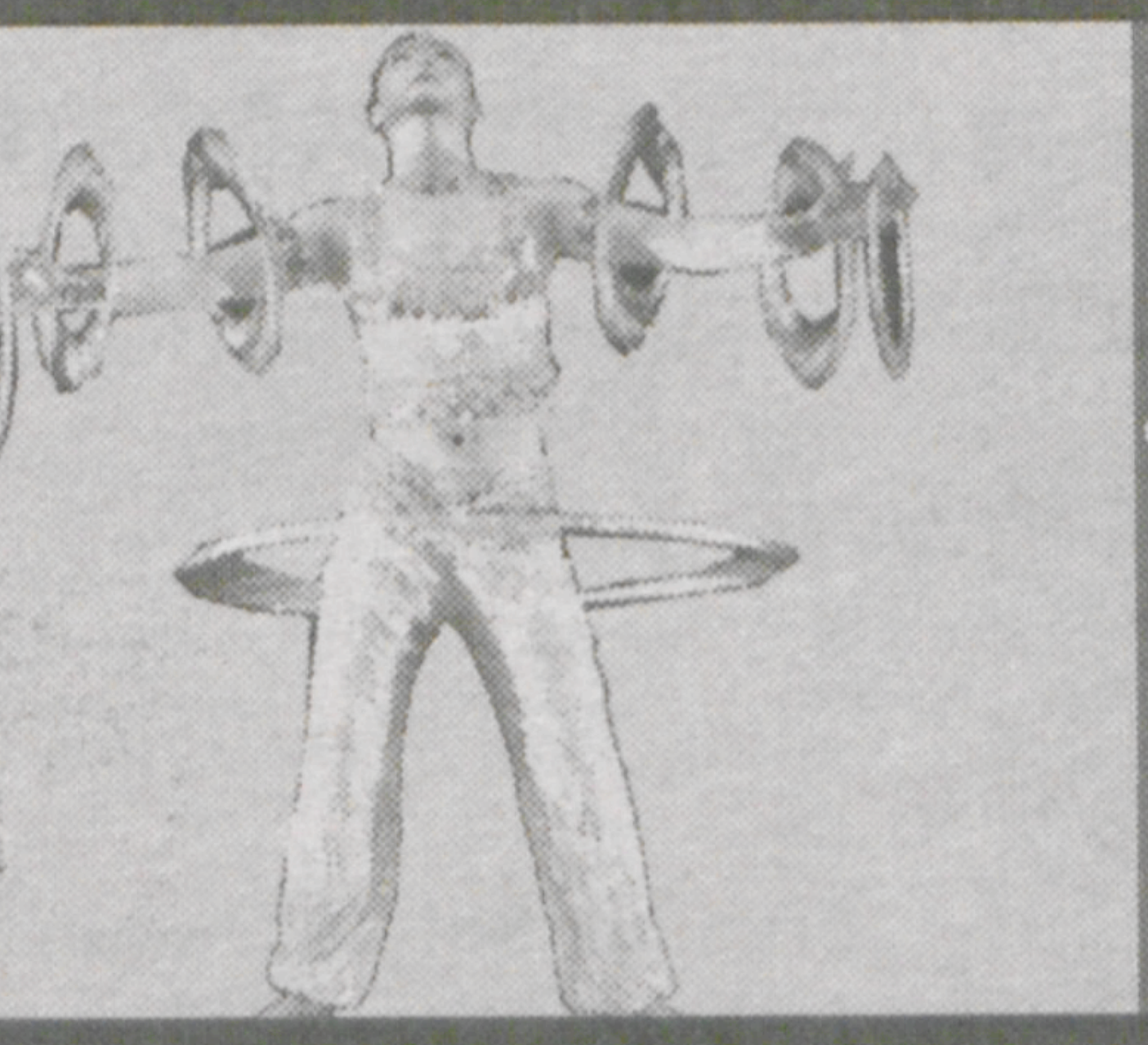
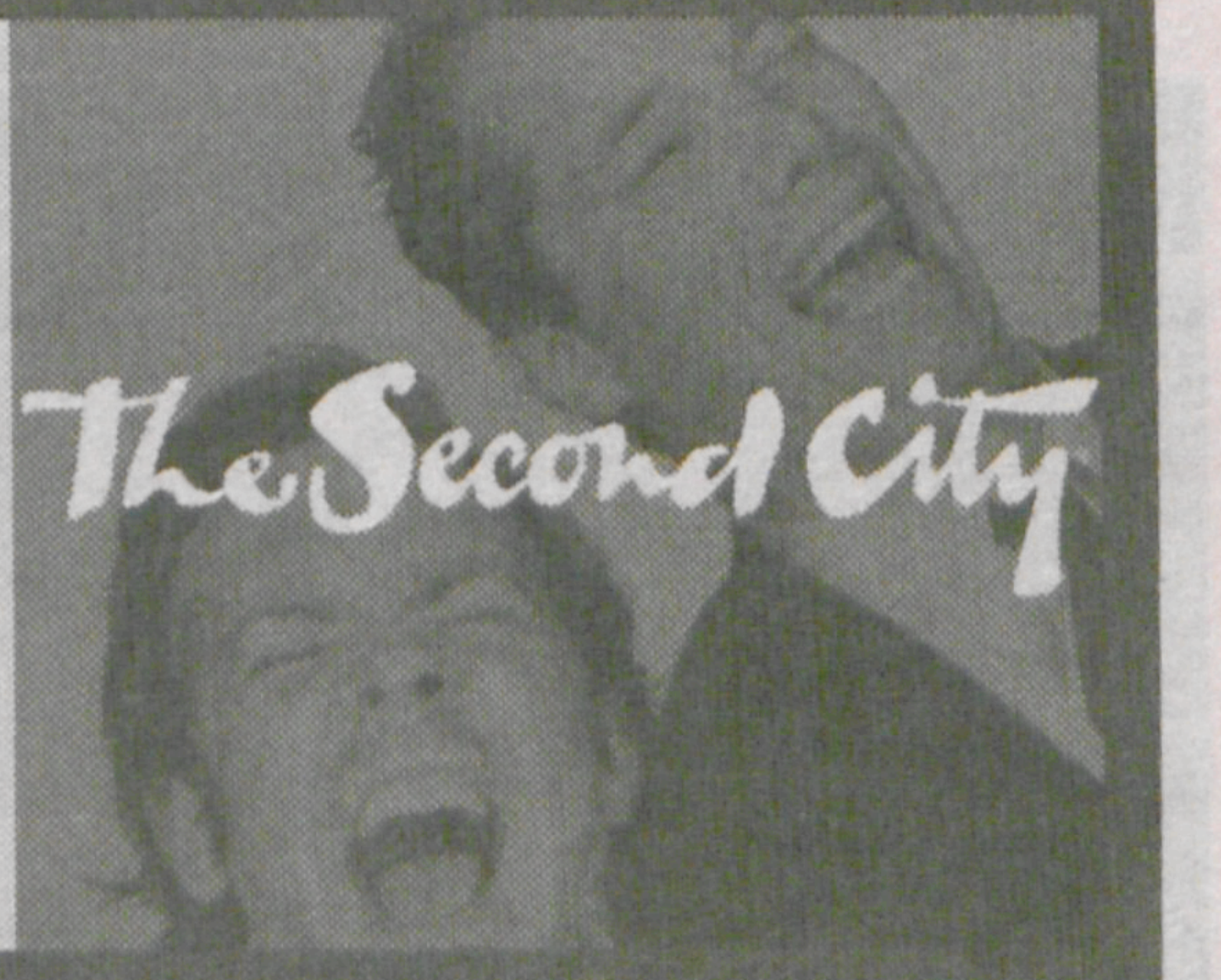
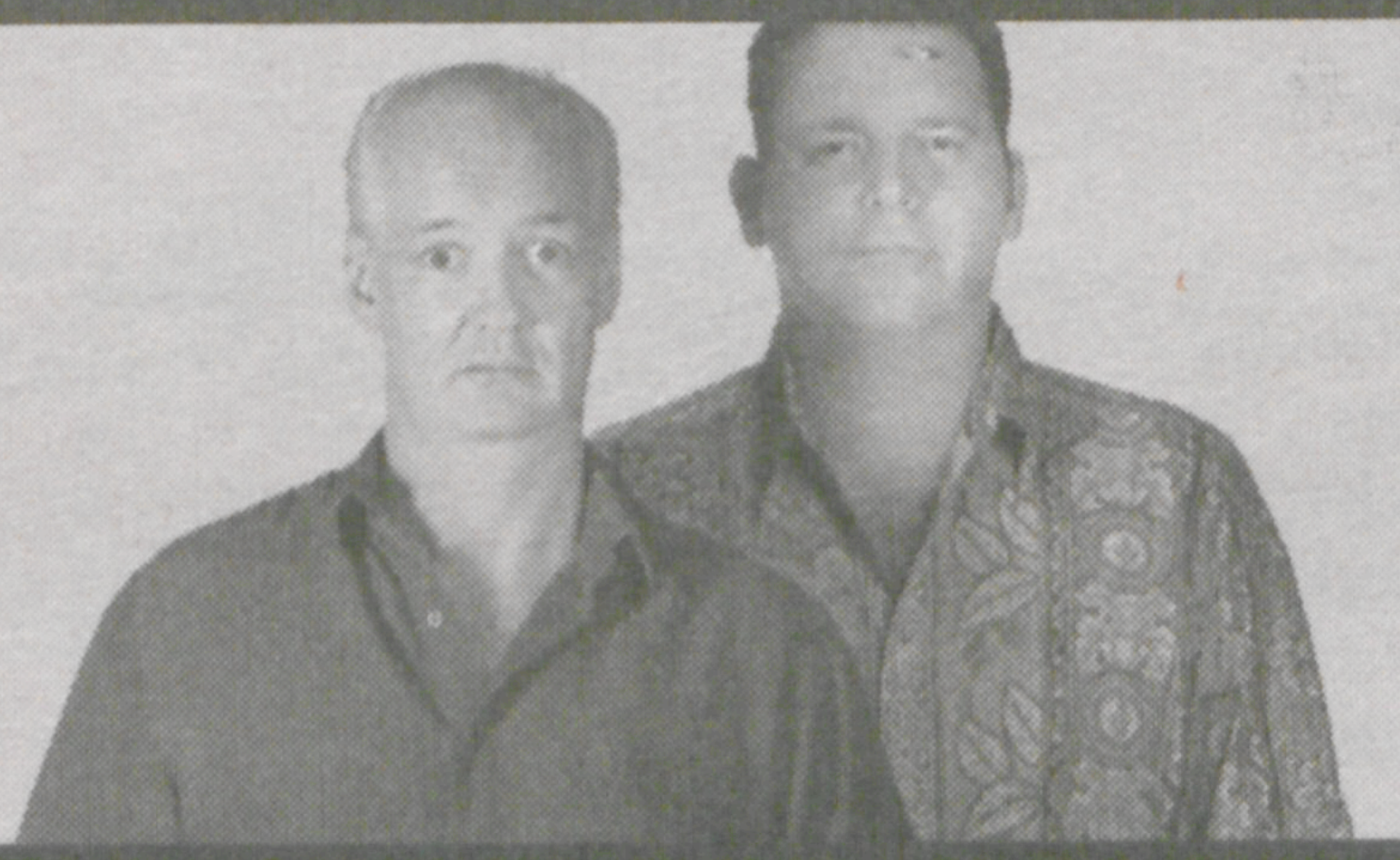

Joan Armatrading


Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats



De-Face the Nation

Wayman Tisdale


Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood

Susan Tedeschi

Witches in Bikinis

Joan Armatrading
Fri, July 11, 8pm
Into the Blues

Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters
Thur, August 21, 7:30pm
Electric hillbilly

Higashi Jazz in the City Series
R n R
Richard Elliot & Rick Braun
Fri, August 22, 8pm
Sponsored by Higashi Pearls & Fine Jewelry

Witches in Bikinis
Sat, August 23, 8pm
Sci-Fi Horror Summer Beach Party

Girls Night: The Musical
August 12-17, 8pm, Tues-Sat, 3pm Sun
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Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats
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Higashi Jazz in the City Series
Wayman Tisdale
Sat, September 20, 8pm
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The Second City Comedy Troop presenting
De-Face The Nation
Thurs, October 2, 7:30pm
Political comedy

Ladybird, Pat & Betty - Tea for three
Sat, October 4, 8pm
Starring Elaine Bromka
One woman show reveals intimate portraits of three First Ladies

John Sebastian & Dave Grisman
Wed, October 8, 7:30pm
Folk/rock

XPN Welcomes
Susan Tedeschi
Wed, October 15, 7:30pm

An Evening with Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
Whitaker Center at the FORUM
Sat, November 1, 8pm

Tickets: whitakercenter.org or 717/214-ARTS

arts & entertainment calendar *cont'd*

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY SUMMER CONCERTS

The orchestra will perform "Olympic Fanfare & Theme" by John Williams, and "William Tell Overture" by Rossini, along with excerpts from Carmen, Phantom of the Opera, and Star Wars, just to name a few, plus a tribute to Duke Ellington. New locations this summer in Lemoyne and Lebanon. Free for the family.

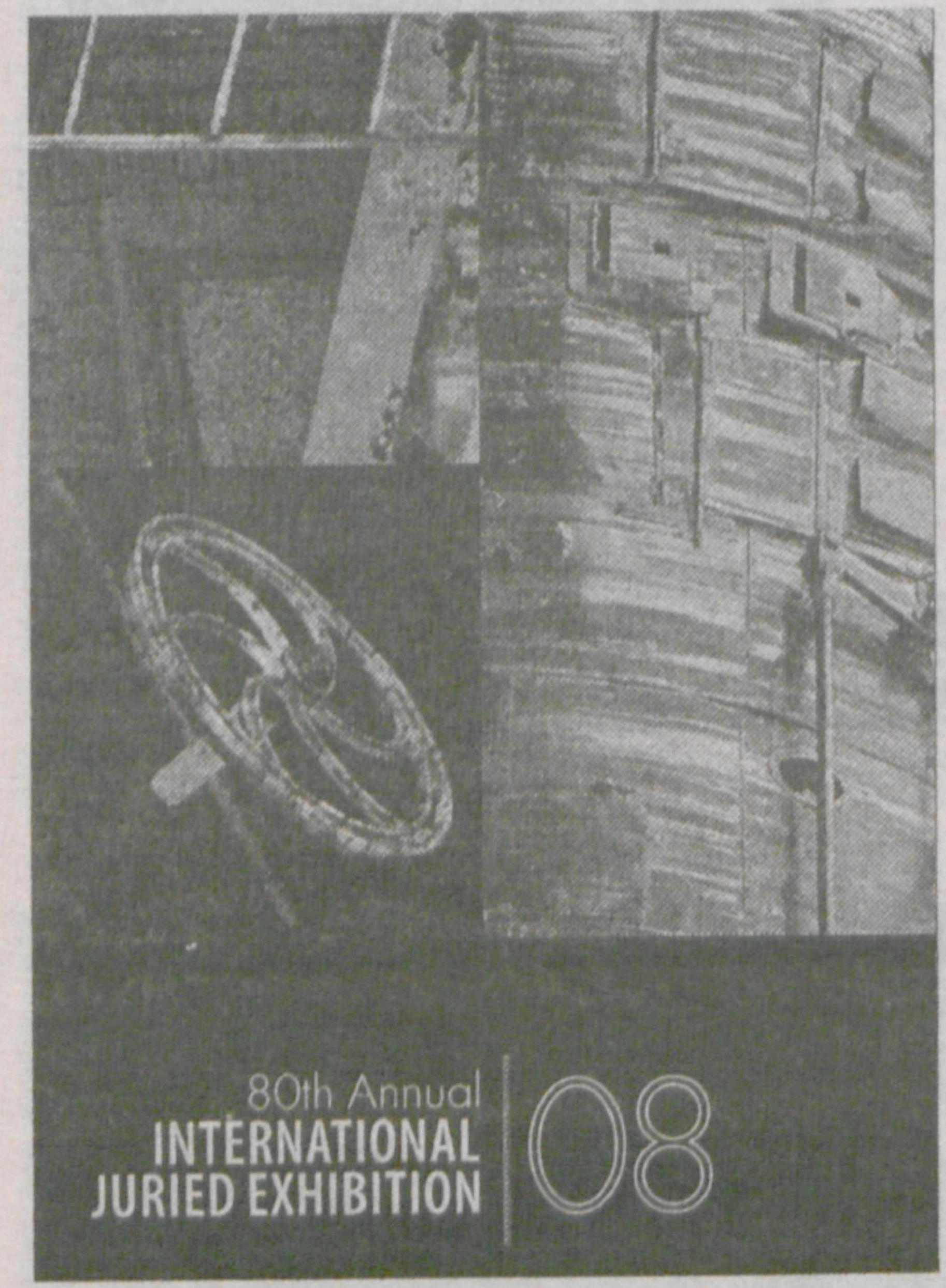
NEW - July 3, 8:30 p.m. - Negley Park, Lemoyne. Rain Location: Washington Heights Elementary School

NEW - July 4, 8 p.m. - Lebanon Valley College, Annville – LVC Academic Quad. Rain Location: Lutz Hall in Blair Music Buildin

July 5, 8:30 p.m. - American Musicfest, Harrisburg, South Riverfront Park, includes Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" & Fireworks. Rain Location: The Forum

July 6, 7:30 p.m. - Carlisle Summerfair, Carlisle, Rush Campus, Dickinson College. Rain Location: Carlisle Theater

July 7, 7:30 p.m. - Juniata High School, Mifflintown. Rain Location: Juniata High School



THE ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG

80th Annual Juried Exhibition through June 12

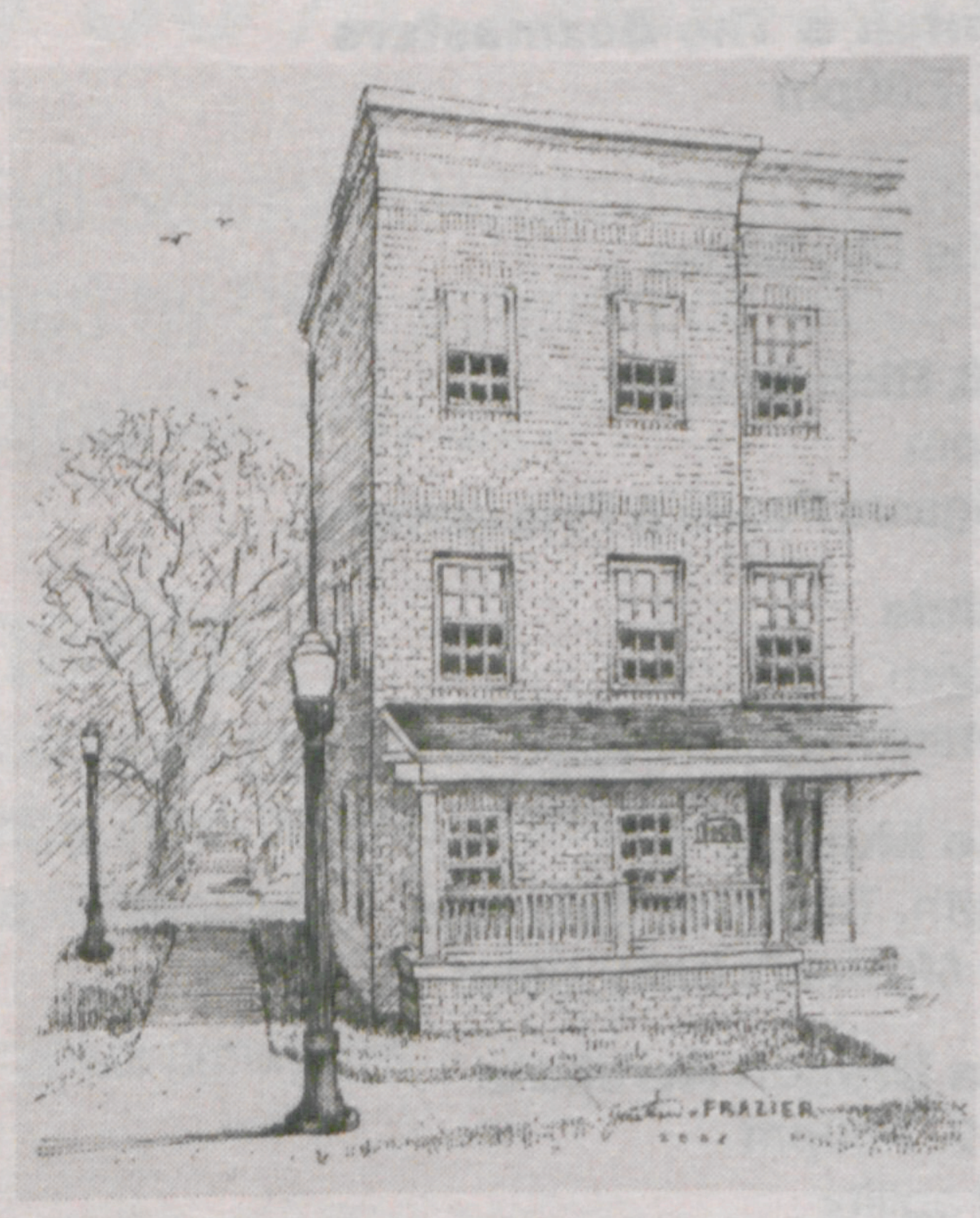
One hundred varied pieces of artwork from 13 states are showcased including works in oil, acrylic, water color, prints, graphics, sculpture, mixed media, and photography. The juror for the exhibition was Nat Trotter, a Curator at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Gallery hours are 9:30 -9. Mon.-Thurs.; 9:30-4 Fri., 10-4 Sat., 2-5 Sun. Info: 236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com.

Summer Soirees August 9 & 16

August 9, 5-8 p.m. Tracey and Bob Meloni host "Alice in Wonderland - Come as Your Favourite Mad-Hatter" in their garden on Berkshire Lane in Harrisburg. Special features will include catering by Red Door, jazz by Katie Rudolph and Jim Miller, and a visit by exotic rescue birds! The artists featured will be the "English Views" painters - Earl Blust, Robert Hughes, William Kocher and John David Wissler, with all new work. Guests are encouraged to wear hats to this 5 to 8 PM Soiree, in keeping with the "Mad-Hatter" theme!

August 16, 4 -7 p.m. Eric Olson and Nancy Bartholomaei-Olson host a soiree in their Race Street home and garden in Shipoke, Harrisburg. This "Shipoke Soiree - Like Mother, Like Son," will showcase the photography by Eric Olson and paintings by his mother Mary Elizabeth Matthews Olson. A special added pleasure will be the opportunity to view the painted fire hydrants throughout Shipoke, done by artists in the "Plugs in the Poke" project! Hors d'ouevres and libations are included in the attendance fee. As the Soiree's grand finale, Eric Olson will offer his photograph of Harrisburg bridges as a raffle prize for attendees.

Reservations may be obtained in advance at $30 per person by contacting the AAH, 236-1432. Proceeds benefit the association's cultural programs.



LGBT Center Coalition Hires Staffer

continued from page 3

will be to rely on its deeply felt conviction that community input is essential to this effort. The long-desired Community Center will serve a diverse population. This is an exciting reality, but it will also require hard work to make sure the diversity of voices within the local lgbt community can be heard.

Please become a part of this important work by sharing your valuable input. Visit the Center Coalition's table at Pride, go to the website, and use the Community Calendar; communicate your hopes for this Center. The Coalition has adopted the phrase "There's no place like home" to illustrate the importance of having a safe space for common ground in the local lgbt community. Remember those words, and be excited that big things are already happening in our community.

Art House Lounge Opens on Restaurant Row

In the midst of food and frolic is art. Art House Lounge recently opened as a commission gallery. Nested in the hustle of Harrisburg's Restaurant Row, the new venue is located at 217 N. 2nd Street and features art by local and regional artists and boasts a unique, carefree environment. "Come in, relax, enjoy a cup of coffee and let your mind run free," says curator and artist Pamela Speaker. She and Jason Piper founded the gallery.

The space is unique in the region. Small, inviting and infused with soft New Age music conducive to a mind relaxing break. Available for private groups, the second room, up three steps and it's own quiet space, offers a beverage service window.

Upcoming events: July 11, Public Opening, 5 -8 p.m. Public invited to come in, relax, enjoy refreshments; July 24- Meet & Greet the Artists plus Public Opening with HYP, 6 -9 p.m. Info: http://www.arthouselounge.com.

theatre news

Summer Classes at Open Stage

Music Theatre Workshop '08, Ages 12-17 by audition only, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m, July 21 – August 8. $450, students spend three intensive weeks in acting, singing, and dance classes, then perform the best of Broadway. Includes a New York field trip and a workshop in the Big Apple! Performances: July 31, 7 & 8:15 p.m. contact; e-mail education@openstage.com.

Harrisburg Previews Theatre Groups

Open Stage of Harrisburg, Gamut Theatre Group and Theatre Harrisburg recently joined forces in the Gallery of Harrisburg's Appalachian Brewing Company for a celebration of Downtown Theatre. All three theatres announced their 2008-2009 Seasons during a Theatre Downtown Preview Happy Hour that featured live entertainment by local guitar favorite Brooks West. The three theatres are also looking for a number of "Downtown Theatre Preview Stars" to sponsor this and similar events. Interested individuals, organizations, and companies may contact Paige Pavlishin, Open Stage of Harrisburg, 232-6736.

carlisle events

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Country Line Dancing Mariposa Room,
Howard Johnsons
Open Mic Night, Fast Eddies
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Market Cross Pub
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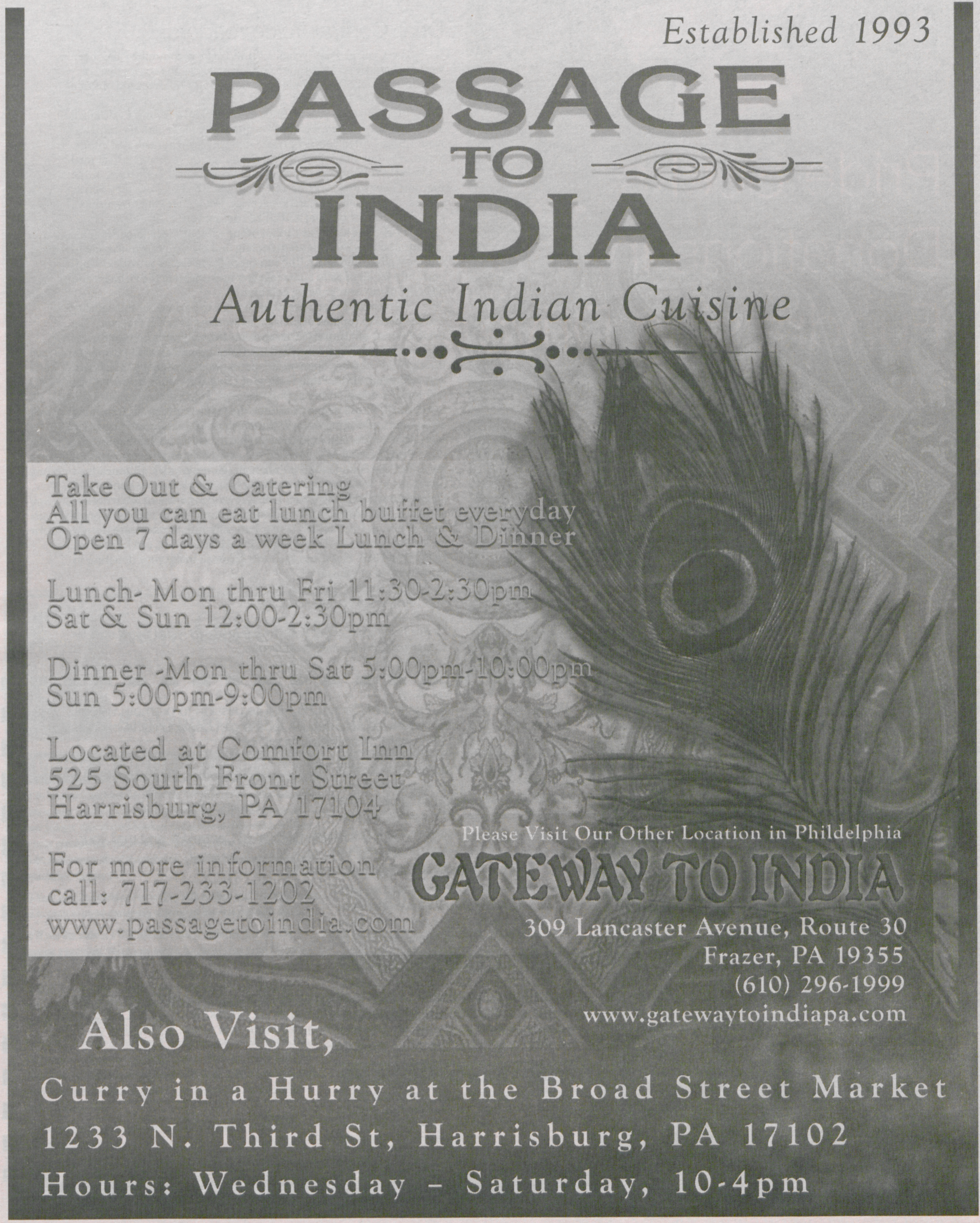
Barney Karaoke, McKay's Cave
DJ Dance Music, Alibis Eatery and Spirits
Saturday Night Dance Party
w/DJ Hollywood,
Trindle Inn Bar & Grill
Stand Up Comedy, Red Devil



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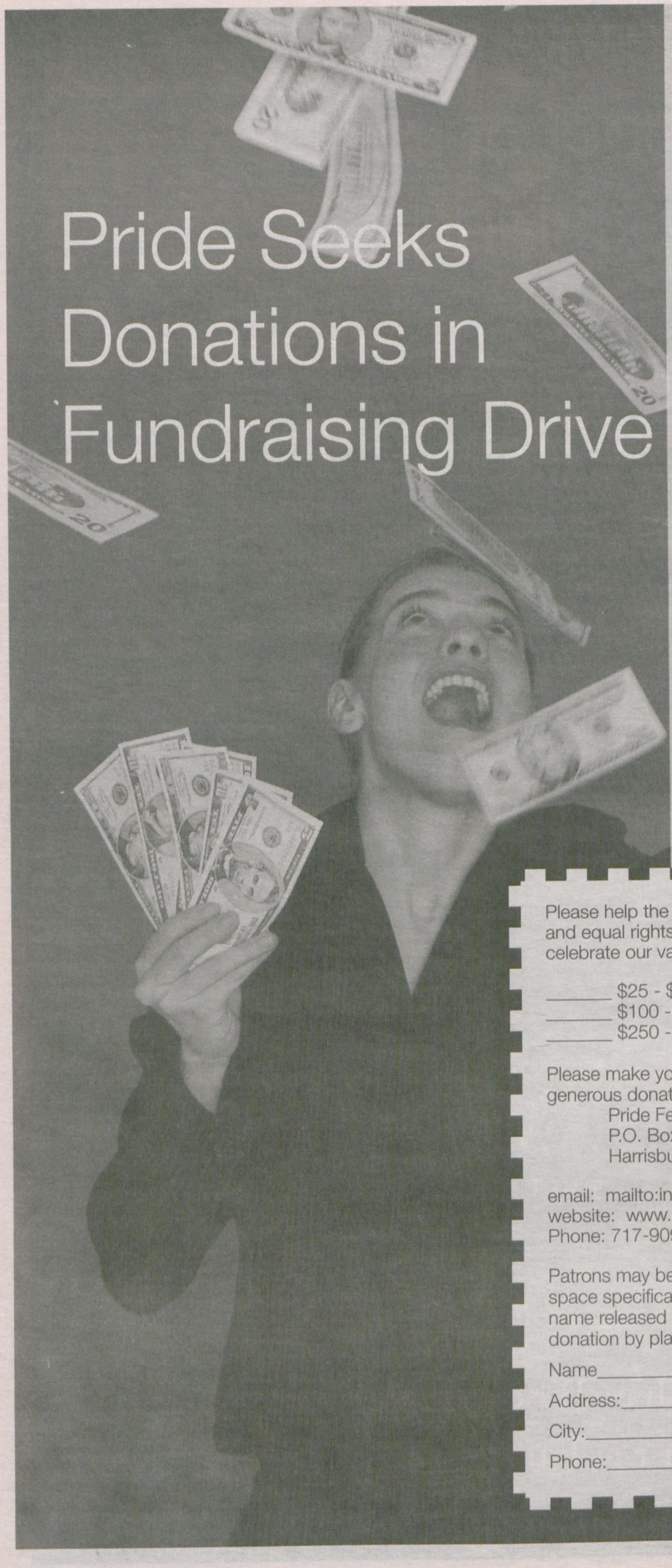
Pride Seeks Donations in Fundraising Drive



Dear Central Voice readers:

The Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival committee has been working hard all year to produce PrideFest 2008. The committee is excited to announce that this year we are offering a full weekend of Pride events from July 25-27, 2008.

Our theme this year is "Pride in Self, Pride in Family, Pride in All That You Do." Pride weekend will begin Friday night with the third annual Voices United concert presented by several choruses and choirs. Saturday is our third annual PrideFest Unity Parade and 18th annual Pride Festival. Sunday's activities will consists of a Foot Race in the morning sponsored by Pride and Common Roads, followed by Spirits United, an interfaith celebration service. We are looking forward to a great weekend for our glbt and allied community.

All of these activities cannot occur without the help of the community. Many individuals are reflecting on how they can contribute to our local glbt community. The summer's Pride events provide the opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate the richness and diversity of our ever growing community.

We recognize that there is much work to be done for full equality and the need to support organizations working to fulfill that goal. The Pride Festival of Central PA receives no federal grants or subsidies; it depends primarily on contributions from individuals and businesses through direct giving, sponsorships, and event admissions. The board and volunteers of the Pride Festival of Central PA hope that everyone will make a donation to support the work being done. No donation is too small. Please help us continue the Pride tradition of promoting equal rights, educating the community about glbt issues and providing safe opportunities and venues for people to celebrate who they are.

Pride Festival of Central PA is a non-profit organization operating under The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. This means all donations to Pride are fully tax deductible, so please give generously, and please give what you can. Donations of any amount are truly appreciated. We hope we can count on the community to make this year's festival fun and successful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Dave Walker, President of Pride, can be reached at 717-991-5889. Please use the form below to make your donation to Pride Festival of Central PA.

With Sincere Gratitude,
2008 Pride Festival of Central PA

"Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania, a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor."

Please help the Pride Festival of Central PA fulfill its mission to promote visibility and equal rights, and to provide safe venues for the glbt community to express and celebrate our vast history and diversity with a gift of:

_______ $25 - $99 - Ally
_______ $100 - $249 - Friend
_______ $250 - $499 - Family
_______ $500 - $749 – Community
_______ $750 - $999 - Unity
_______ $1000+ - Pride

Please make your check payable to Pride Festival of Central PA and mail your generous donation along with this form to:

Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 12083
Harrisburg, PA 17108-2083

email: mailto:info@harrisburgpride.org
website: www.harrisburgpride.org
Phone: 717-909-5889

Patrons may be listed in various media formats during pride season as time and space specifications allow. If you wish to remain anonymous or do not want your name released in any public format, please indicate that when submitting your donation by placing a check mark here _______.

Name____
Address:____
City:________________________ State:________ Zip:____________
Phone:______________________ Email________________________

Silent Witness Training Offered

Alanna Berger, Silent Witness, announces training to deflect anti-gay protestors. Training sessions are planned for First UU Church of Berks County, Reading, July 13, noon; Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, July 13, 6 p.m., July 17, 7 p.m. and July 23, 7 p.m. There is also training set up July 19, Scranton, 5 p.m. Please check www.SilentWitnessPA.org for the exact location.

"As always, we request people attending Pride or related glbt events to ignore protesters as much as possible, don't acknowledge them, don't argue with them, don't make fun of them, and generally don't let them ruin your day," Berger says.

"If they stand in front of you and want to talk to you, and you don't want to talk to them, politely decline and walk away," she advises. As her husband Blaise says,"It's impossible to reason with someone impervious to logic."

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Derek Cordier, Esquire
Bankruptcy, Wills & Estates, and Family Law

Paralegal: Ben Patenaude
319 South Front Street • Harrisburg, PA 17104
PHONE: 717•919-4002 FAX: 717•213-4984
derek@derekjcordier.com

Why A Will is a Must!

1) In Pennsylvania if you die without a Will or a spouse, your estate will pass to your children. If you have no children, your estate passes to your parents, then to your brothers and sisters or their children. Then to your grandparents and down the family line until your estate goes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (Title 20 Decedent, Estates and Fiduciaries, Chapter 21)

2) Your surviving partner may end up with nothing and may even have to go to court to prove ownership of property that was rightfully theirs.

3) If you die without a Will and have minor children, a court may appoint a guardian, which may not be the person you hoped to raise them.

4) Even if your estate is small, a Will is important If you die in an accident as a result of negligence, the persons named in your Will could benefit from an award or settlement.

5) As for funeral arrangements, if you do not give specific instructions, your partner will not have any legal right to carry out your wishes and could even be barred from the funeral services. Funeral arrangements made in advance will add weight to your wishes. See my website for further information.

6) Without a Will, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania decides who administers your Estate.

Power of Attorney For Health Care

This document specifies who is to make medical decisions for you when you are unable. Without a Power of Attorney for Health Care and especially since HIPPA was enacted, your partner may not only be barred from making medical decisions, they may be barred from the hospital altogether.

Medical Identification Card

While not taking the place of a Power of Attorney, a Medical Identification Card is also recommended. This card will alert health care workers to your partner's whereabouts. (Provided with all Powers of Attorney for Health Care).

Living Wills

(Called an "Advance Directive for Health Care in Pennsylvania) While the Power of Attorney for Health Care allows your partner to make medical decisions while you are incapacitated, it does not necessarily allow them to make the decision to stop life support. Therefore, a Living Will is also recommended.

Power of Attorney For Finances

This document allows your partner to make financial decisions for you, including making payments and writing checks. Basically anything you can do with your finances, so can your partner. However, you can design this power to be broad or specific.

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- Power of Attorney for Finances $75.00
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Volunteers Needed for Parade & Festival

By Mark Smith

The Central PA Pride Festival committee is currently looking for volunteers to help with the 2008 PrideFest Unity parade and Pride Festival. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas, ticket sales, children's area, information booth, programming and entertainment.

The parade committee is also seeking volunteers to work at their registration table and assist with traffic control and lining up of groups in march formation in the parade staging area.

New for this year, the parade committee is hoping to have an Honor and Color guard at the beginning of the parade. The Honor Guard would consist of two people carrying a banner, immediately followed by people carrying the American Flag, State Flag, a Rainbow Flag, and an HRC flag. The Color guard would consist of people carrying rainbow flags. Both of these groups would be at the beginning of the parade and would help escort the Grand Marshal.

Later in the parade an oversized rainbow flag will make its way down the street. A minimum of six to eight volunteers are need to carry this large flag. The parade committee is hoping that individuals not associated with a group who want to march in the parade will volunteer to carry a flag. They are also hoping that each organization within the community might send a volunteer to help carry the large rainbow flag as an act of unity.

People can sign up to volunteer by checking out the website at www.harrisburgpride.org and clicking on the volunteer tab. Volunteers can also send an email to the parade committee at cppup@harrisburgpride.org or contact Dave Walker, chair of Central PA PrideFest at 717-991-5889. The Pride committee looks forward to working with individuals within the community in order to make this year's Pride Festival a success.

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Central Voice Sponsors Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Mixer

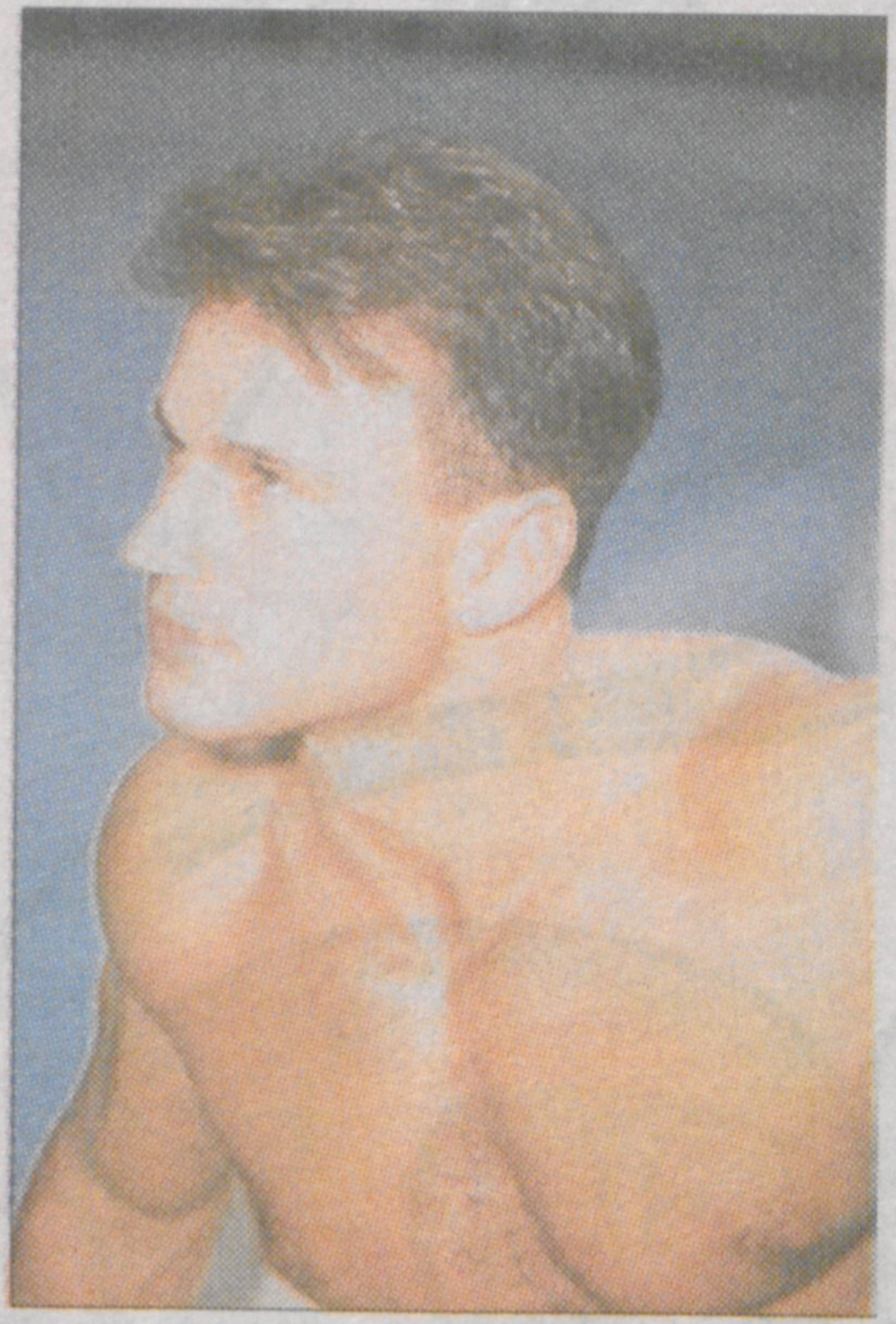
TOP: Ben Patenaude and Attorney Derek Cordier enjoy Passage to India cuisine.
BELOW: Deborah Nissley and Stephanie Burns, Keystone Staffing Services, Inc.

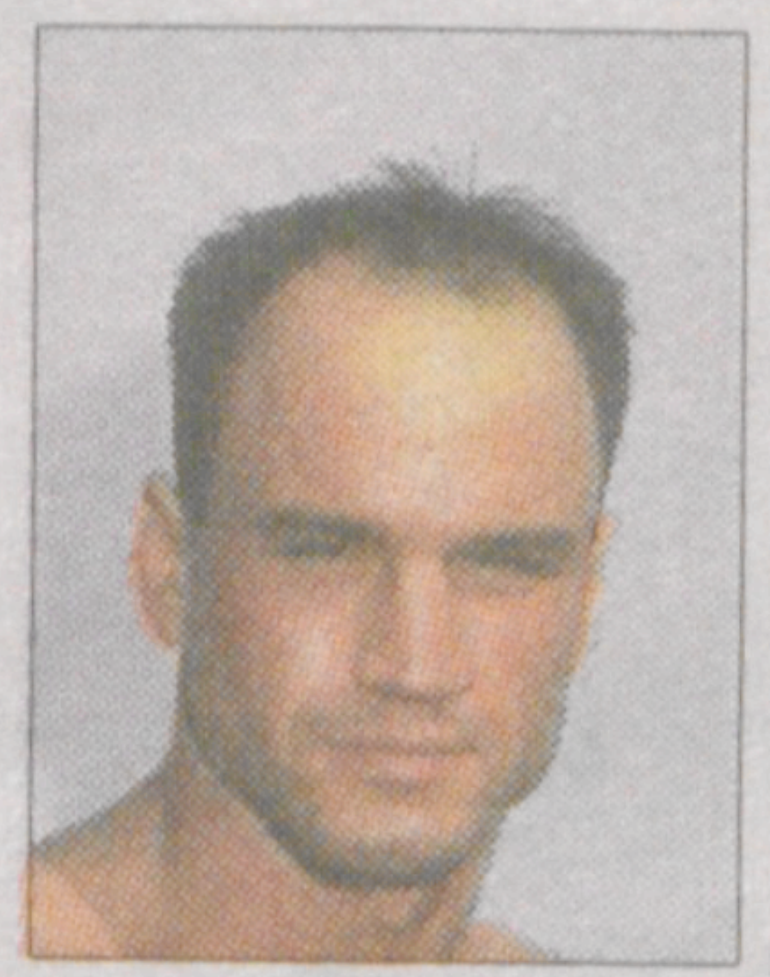
RuPaul & LOGO to Launch "Drag Race" Reality Show

And yet another reality show in the works! But this is one we'd watch. LOGO just announced a new competition reality show titled "RuPaul's Drag Race." The series will consist of six, one hour episodes and is expected to air early next year.

One lucky contestant will be able to compete for a spot on the series by signing up to the show's site, RuPaulsDragRace.com, with online votes determining the winner. RuPaul will not only be the host, but will also be the contestants' mentor along with judge. Each contestant will be allowed to bring one stylist (or friend) with them to the competition to help them with their challenges. Contestants will compete for the title of top drag queen.

RuPaul jokes, "Tell Tyra that the Queen has returned, and while you're at it have Heidi clear the runway. I'm going to pump some 'realness' into reality. To be a winner on this show the contestants need to be a fashion designer, an American Idol, and a top model all rolled up into one. And they definitely have to be smarter than a fifth grader."





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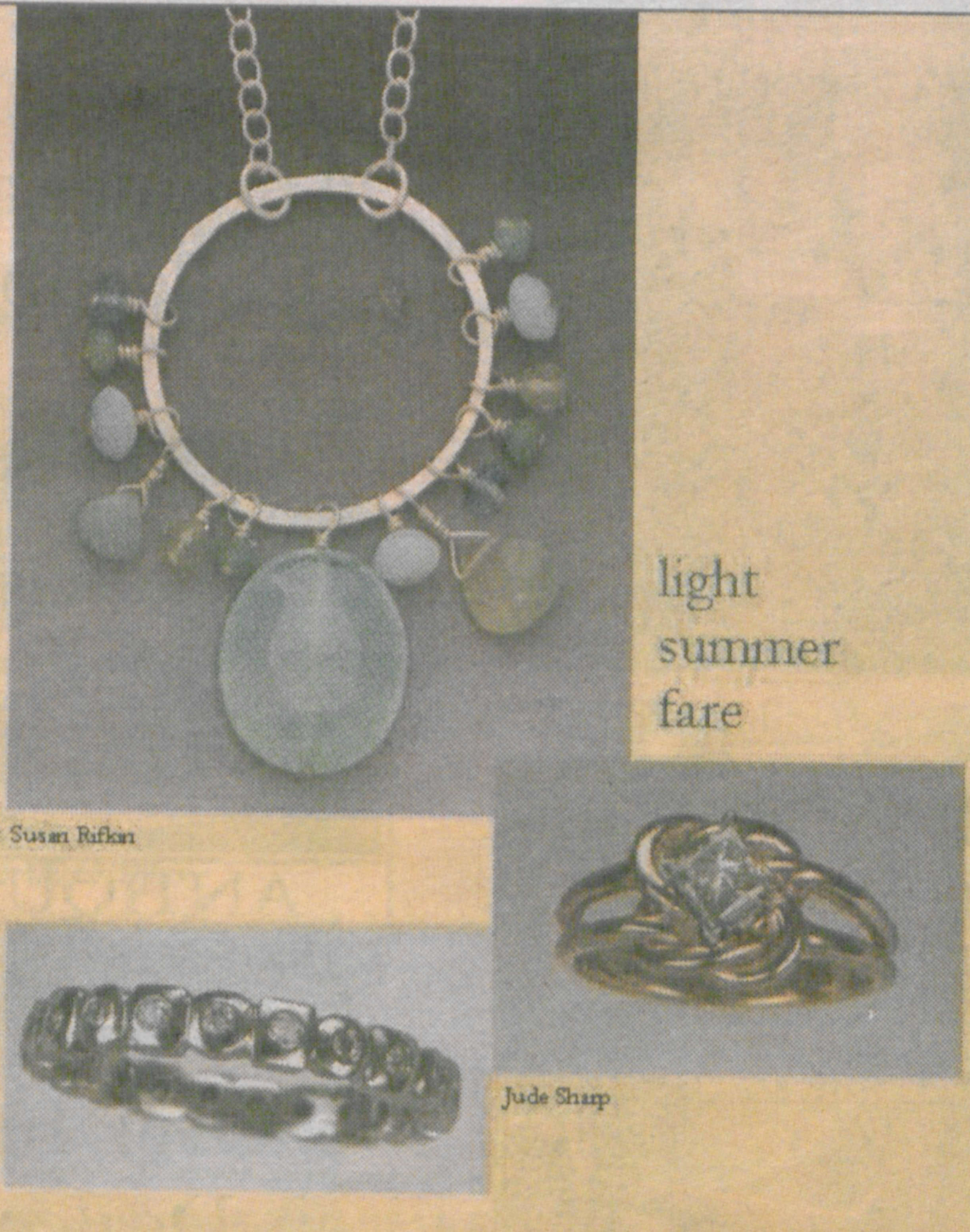

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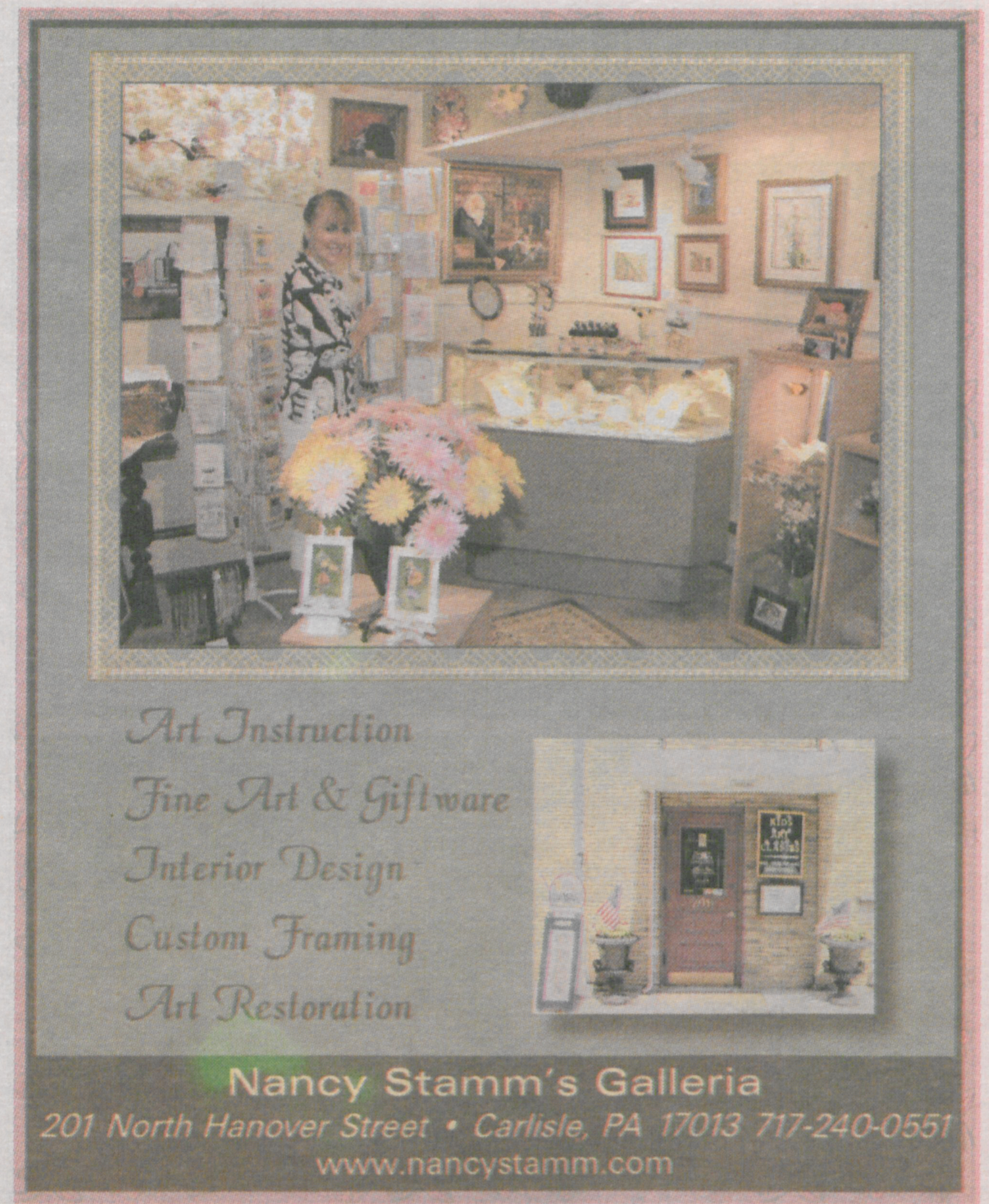

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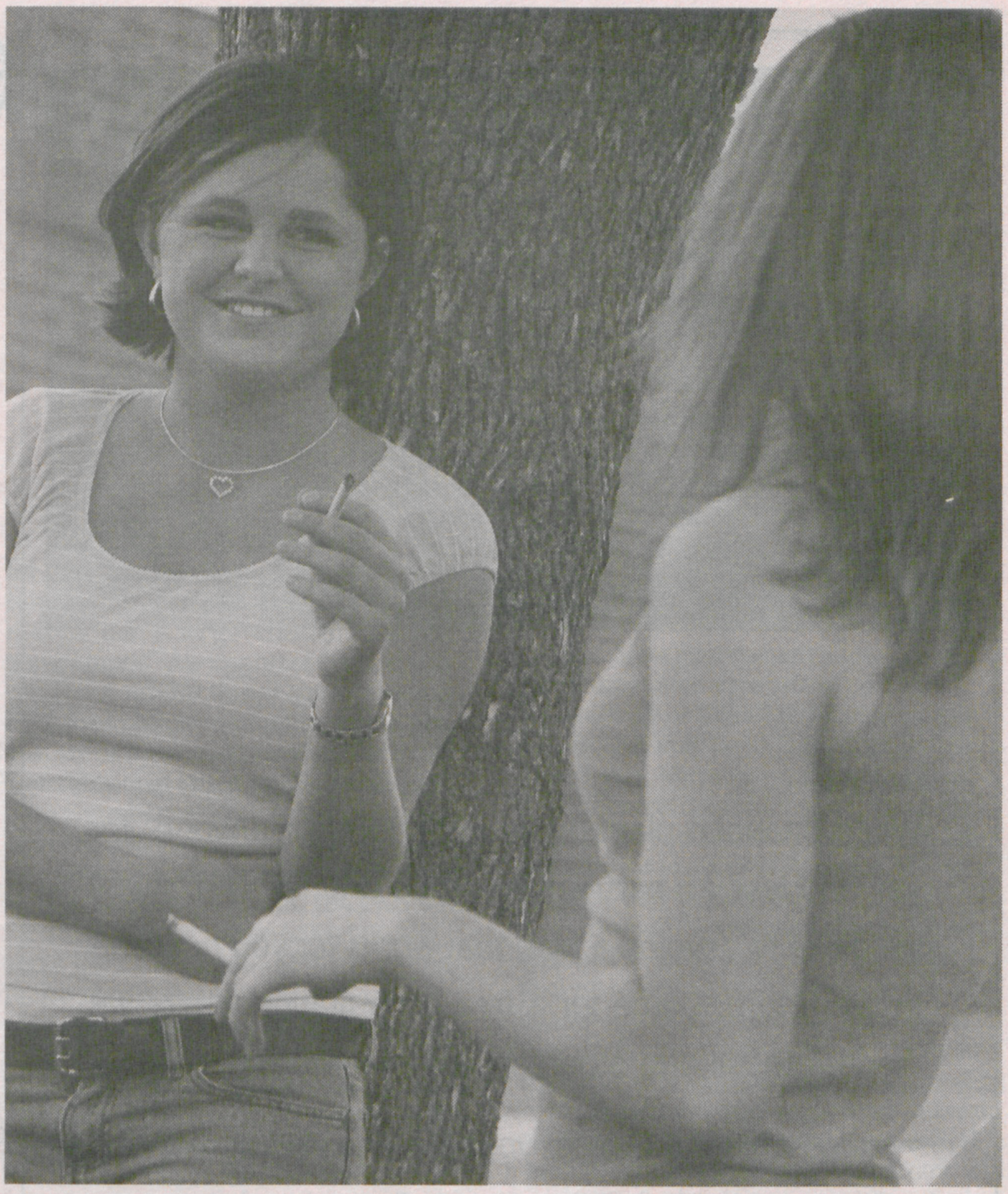
Gays Smoke More Than General Population



Before the Religious Right (think American Taliban) say gays and lesbians smoke more because we really are diseased pariah, let's see if they can "hear" some of the reasons first. This is a typical scene in nay gay bar USA: At a smoke-friendly bar, Robert, 24, sits at a table by the window with a pack of cigarettes at his side and talks about when, and why, he first lit up. "I was 16, and I'd just come out, and my family rejected me for being gay," said Robert, who asked that his last name not be used. "It was stress. I started smoking, and I was hooked."

Stress, many health care experts believe, is one of the main reasons why the smoking rate among gays and lesbians is at least twice the average in many states. More than a decade of advertising targeted at gays and lesbians is also to blame, they say.

It's only in the past year or two that researchers were able to confirm what they'd suspected all along about the high smoking rate in the gay community. Now, at least one new survey, the results of which are expected next year, seeks to explain why. In California, for example, about 14 percent of Californians smoke, according to a 2005 Department of Health Services survey. But in a 2004 state survey, more than 30 percent of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people were smokers.

Lesbians smoked at an even higher rate, 32.5 percent - nearly three times the average - for women in the California study. And among young lesbians between the ages of 18 and 24, a staggering 47 percent were smokers, compared with the average rate of 18 percent for that age group overall.

Gay smokers have their own theories on why they smoke: the club and bar scene, trouble finding dates and falling in love, high alcohol- and drug-abuse rates in the community. Sometimes, smoking is related to a lack of family connections, which can cause stress and also remove pressure to stop smoking once someone has started.

"Gay people probably smoke longer because we're not as family-oriented. If you don't have kids and raise a family, you don't need to stop," said John Daly, 41, who has smoked for 25 years. "We don't have the same responsibilities. We can be reckless a little longer."

Dr. Elizabeth Gruskin, a Kaiser Permanente researcher who studies tobacco and substance abuse among gays and lesbians, conducted a survey last year on why smoking is prevalent in the community. She hopes to publish the results sometime next year.

"It doesn't seem like the issues are different than with straight people, so maybe they're just more intense," Gruskin said. "If you said you smoke because of job stress, well, for an glbt person, stresses can include 'Do I come out at the office?' and 'Am I going to get fired if they find out I'm gay?' There's sort of an added layer for glbt people."

New anti-smoking campaigns helped spur a recent decrease in smoking nationwide after rates held steady through much of the 1990s. In 1999, 1 in 4 adult Americans, or 25 percent, reported smoking. In 2004, when the most recent national survey was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that number had dropped to 21 percent. That's still a long way from the CDC's goal of only 12 percent of Americans smoking by 2010.

Product Recall Measure Passes State House

Legislation introduced by state Rep. Eugene DePasquale, D-York, that would strengthen Pennsylvania's consumer protection laws by targeting unsafe and recalled products unanimously passed the state House today by a vote of 199-0.

The bill, H.B. 2087, would require the state attorney general to establish and maintain a Web page that would provide links to lists of all national agencies that deal with consumer product safety and product recalls. The products identified by any of these lists would be restricted from sale or commerce within Pennsylvania.

"My legislation does two important things," DePasquale said. "First, it is critical that we provide individuals and families with access to information that will help them better protect themselves and their children from unsafe products. And secondly, we need to make sure that these products are taken off the shelves and not reintroduced into the consumer market. It's a common-sense bill and I am pleased that it received significant support from my colleagues in the state House."

"The number of consumer products being recalled because of some safety issue, especially children's toys, is staggering," DePasquale said. "I was shocked to learn that even if a product is found to be unsafe, stores in Pennsylvania are not required to take it off the shelves." The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued 231 children's product recalls last year, accounting for more than 46 million items on shelves across the country. He added that the recalled products caused at least 650 injuries and six deaths.

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Practical Considerations for a 'Graying' America

By Ronald Wetzel
Citi Smith Barney

More and more, responsibility for America's healthcare price tag is shifting to individuals and families. Medicare faces constant cost pressures, and some people are concerned that the program may eventually become insolvent. Premiums for employer-sponsored insurance have increased 87% cumulatively from 2000-2006, compared to a 20% increase in wages and an 18% increase in overall inflation.1 In addition, employers are moving to limit the benefits and coverage they will offer to current and future retirees.

Many Americans are rightfully concerned. In this article we focus on governmental healthcare financing through Medicare, and Medigap.

Medicare: Federal cornerstone of healthcare

Introduced in 1965, Medicare provides health insurance for almost everyone age 65 or older as well as some younger people who have disabilities and people with end-stage renal disease. Typically, individuals are eligible if they or their spouse worked for a minimum of ten years in Medicare-taxed employment (including self-employment), are 65 years of age or older, and are citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Even if you have other insurance, such as retirement continuation of an employer-sponsored program, Medicare automatically covers you at age 65. If you have other insurance, it will complement your Medicare coverage and further reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

Originally, Medicare consisted of two parts: Part A for hospital insurance and Part B for medical insurance. Part A helps pay for care in hospitals as well as some skilled nursing facilities, hospice, and some home health care. If you or your spouse contributed to Medicare taxes while working, there are no monthly premiums for Part A. However, there are monthly premiums for Part B, which helps cover doctors fees, outpatient hospital care, and some other medical services such as physical and occupational therapists.

Part C, added in 1997, gives Medicare beneficiaries the option to receive their Medicare benefits through private health insurance plans. Part D, introduced in 2006, adds general coverage options for many prescription drugs. Private companies are responsible for setting up Part D plans, so each one will be slightly different. Part D is not automatic: You must choose to enroll in one of the many prescription drug plans. These plans vary widely in cost structures and drugs covered, and there is a gap in coverage – known as the "donut hole" – that could prove burdensome. To make your selection easier, Medicare has an interactive online tool called the Prescription Drug Plan Finder, which lets you view and compare program structures and costs in your geographic area based on general attributes or your personalized search criteria. You should also compare the Medicare D plans to drug coverage costs offered under some Medigap policies.

Medigap: Covering 'holes' in Medicare coverage

Out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare can be substantial. For example, Part A has an annual deductible of nearly $1,000 for a hospital stay from 1-60 days as well as substantial co-pays for longer stays. Medicare will pay for the first 20 days of care in an approved nursing home, but only after a hospital stay of at least 72 hours. After 20 days, Medicare charges a co-pay ($124 per day in 2007) and limits total coverage to 100 days in any particular year. For Part B, on top of the yearly deductible, beneficiaries also pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for any covered services. These "leftover" costs can mount up rapidly.

Medigap was devised to "fill in the gaps" of coverage for the original Medicare (Parts A and B). Most states offer ten Medigap options. All plans must offer certain Basic Benefits: coinsurance for inpatient hospital care and 365 extra days of hospital care during your lifetime after Medicare coverage ends, Part B coinsurance, and the first three pints of blood per year. Some of the more extensive Medigap plans may also pay such things as coinsurance for skilled nursing, Part A deductibles, preventive care, foreign travel emergencies, and prescription drug costs (as an alternative to Medicare Part D).

While Medigap helps in many ways, it does not cover long-term care. This non-coverage of long-term care applies generally to most group and individual health insurance policies as well as Medicare. And it is long-term care that can be financially devastating for older Americans.

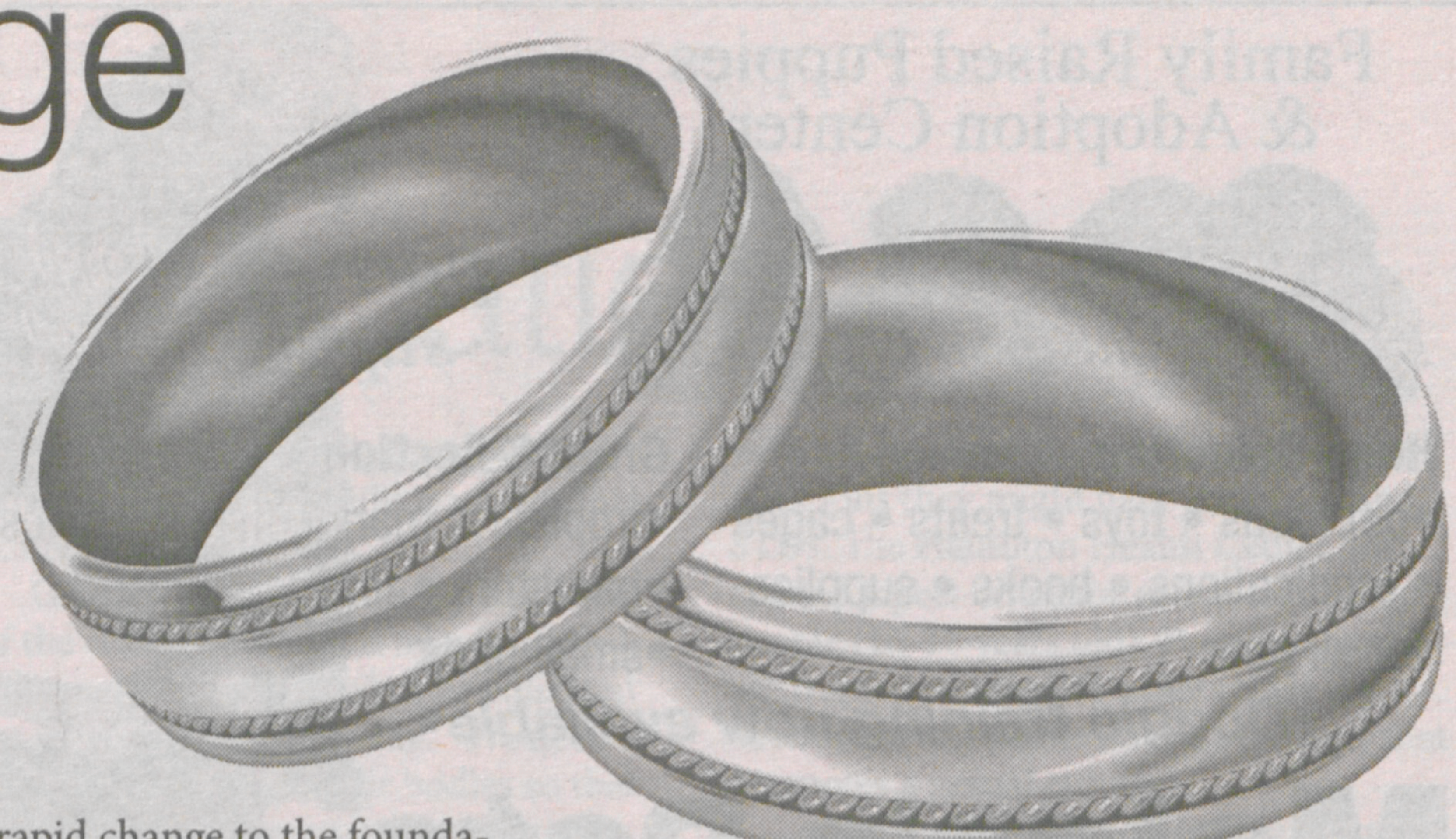
Fortunately, there is a variety of practical solutions for long-term care available today—far more than 20 years ago.

Ronald Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney located in Harrisburg and may be reached at 717-780-1789.

Life insurance and long-term care insurance are medically underwritten. As such, your actual premiums are not guaranteed and may vary from any initial quotation you receive. You should not cancel your current coverage until your new coverage is approved and in force. A change in policy may be subject to additional insurance and investment-related fees as well as increased risks, and may also require a medical exam. New surrender charges may be imposed with a new contract or may increase the period of time for which the surrender charges apply. Surrenders may be taxable. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding tax liability on surrenders.

1 U.S. Census Bureau. Average life expectancy at birth rose from 47.3 years in 1900 to 76.9 years in 2000.

Same-Sex Marriage in Pennsylvania



Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

Has the time come for Pennsylvania to boldly step into the 21st Century? Unfortunately, the answer is probably "not yet." The national trend setter California has approved same-sex marriage via court decision. The opinion by the court is thoughtful and well-written, though a bit too verbose for me. It details why gay marriage must be sanctioned in order to uphold that state's constitutional guarantee of individual freedom and equality.

Interestingly, Pennsylvania's Constitution has a very high standard of personal privacy and freedom. It's arguably higher than California's and definitely much higher than that provided by the federal constitution. So why doesn't Pennsylvania recognize same-sex couples? It's that interesting conundrum of politics and money. The politics chases the money and the money providers dictate the policy. Thus failed policies hang on well after their time is over because the balance of societal interests shifted in a different direction. Once the balance of financial strength firmly supports the new position, the politicians will also support it. This is indicated in California by the governor's statement that he would not support a constitutional amendment to overturn the court decision. Pennsylvania is not so far along the societal progression curve.

Here in good old Pennsylvania, the majority of citizens seem to be shifting towards supporting same-sex marriage, or at least civil unions. However, the key word tends to be "old." Pennsylvania has a high "senior" population who believe this is a religious issue rather than a secular issue. It's noteworthy that many seniors are more open-minded and feel that sexual orientation doesn't matter. It shows society is changing.

In fact, society is changing at an increasingly fast pace. Note - in the past 50 years interracial marriage, divorce and female CEOs have become common. Non-white males and females have become cultural icons and respected diplomats. The previous 1,000 years had not seen such tremendous cultural progress not directly tied to producing food or money.

On the other hand, Pennsylvania's constitutional structure does not allow for rapid change to the foundational considerations. It follows the maxim that "slow government is good government." An important concept. It can mean several things simultaneously. First, bad policies cannot be put in place quickly or by one group of power brokers. Constitutional amendments must pass both chambers of each house of the legislature in two consecutive two-year legislative sessions and then be voted favorably by the majority of citizens. It allows time for citizens to be educated and understand the ramifications of their actions. It also means that as society changes government adapts to those changes that have "staying power" rather than those that are simply fads. In essence, Pennsylvania's "body politic" likes to take baby steps towards a new position.

While I'm ready for same-sex marriage today, other societal members are not. Slow government allows these persons to catch up or slowly die out (figuratively or literally). Pennsylvania's best option may be to follow the lead of New Jersey, Vermont, and Connecticut by implementing civil unions. Once the average person sees that civil unions are not a threat to societal structure, it's no longer a "hot button" issue.

Even some representatives of the Catholic Conference (one of the main proponents of an anti-same-sex marriage constitutional amendment) have stated they don't oppose civil unions. They just oppose "same-sex marriage." I say great! Someone should draft legislation to create civil unions in Pennsylvania (and repeal our DOMA language prohibiting recognition of other states' unions) and ask them to support its passage.

For those of you thinking of rushing off to California, Massachusetts or Vermont to get hitched, I want to add a word of caution. As long as Pennsylvania has a DOMA, you are not protecting you or your partner legally. You may even bring certain contractual matters into question that would otherwise be solid. Don't do it unless you intend to move to a jurisdiction that recognizes your union or unless you intend to sue Pennsylvania to try to force recognition. The second option would fuel the fires of the opposition and may lead to a negative decision by a Pennsylvania Supreme Court that is neutral, if not friendly, to the GLBT community as shown by their upholding Philadelphia's domestic partner benefit program and condoning adoptions by same-sex couples.

Enter into a cohabitation agreement; make valid wills, powers of attorney, health care directives and trusts to protect your partners and your assets. Then advocate for change to allow civil unions and/or marriage. But don't forget, the best advocacy is being open with your friends and coworkers so that they realize we are people that deserve to be treated equally, not as second class citizens. The best way to educate others is to be honest, forthright, hardworking, and trustworthy. Become friends with a wide circle of people so our support group continues to grow!

Leo Dunn is an attorney who practices estate planning in Harrisburg. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com or 717-503-1207.

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Best Buy Co. Inc.	BBY	53.90	38.75	46.12	×
Citigroup Inc.	C	55.24	17.99	22.04	×
Daimler Chrysler Corp.	DAI	111.65	68.20	76.49	
Dell Inc.	DELL	30.77	18.13	21.81	×
General Mills Inc.	GIS	63.50	51.00	63.13	×
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	GSK	54.64	40.51	43.98	
Hewlett-Packard Co.	HPQ	53.48	39.99	46.91	×
Intel Corp.	INTC	27.99	18.05	23.14	×
Lexmark International Inc.	LXK	53.50	26.55	37.18	×
MetLife	MET	71.23	52.46	60.57	×
New York Times Co.	NYT	26.87	14.01	17.53	
Nike Inc.	NKE	70.60	51.50	68.39	×
Nordstrom Inc.	JWN	54.00	28.00	35.71	×
Prudential Financial Inc.	PRU	103.00	65.66	75.86	×
Raytheon Co.	RTN	67.49	52.28	63.46	×
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	SHLD	183.25	84.72	86.14	×
US Airways Group	LCC	36.81	4.06	4.32	×
Viacom Inc.	VIA	45.03	35.78	35.79	×
Wells Fargo & Co.	WFC	37.99	24.38	27.98	×
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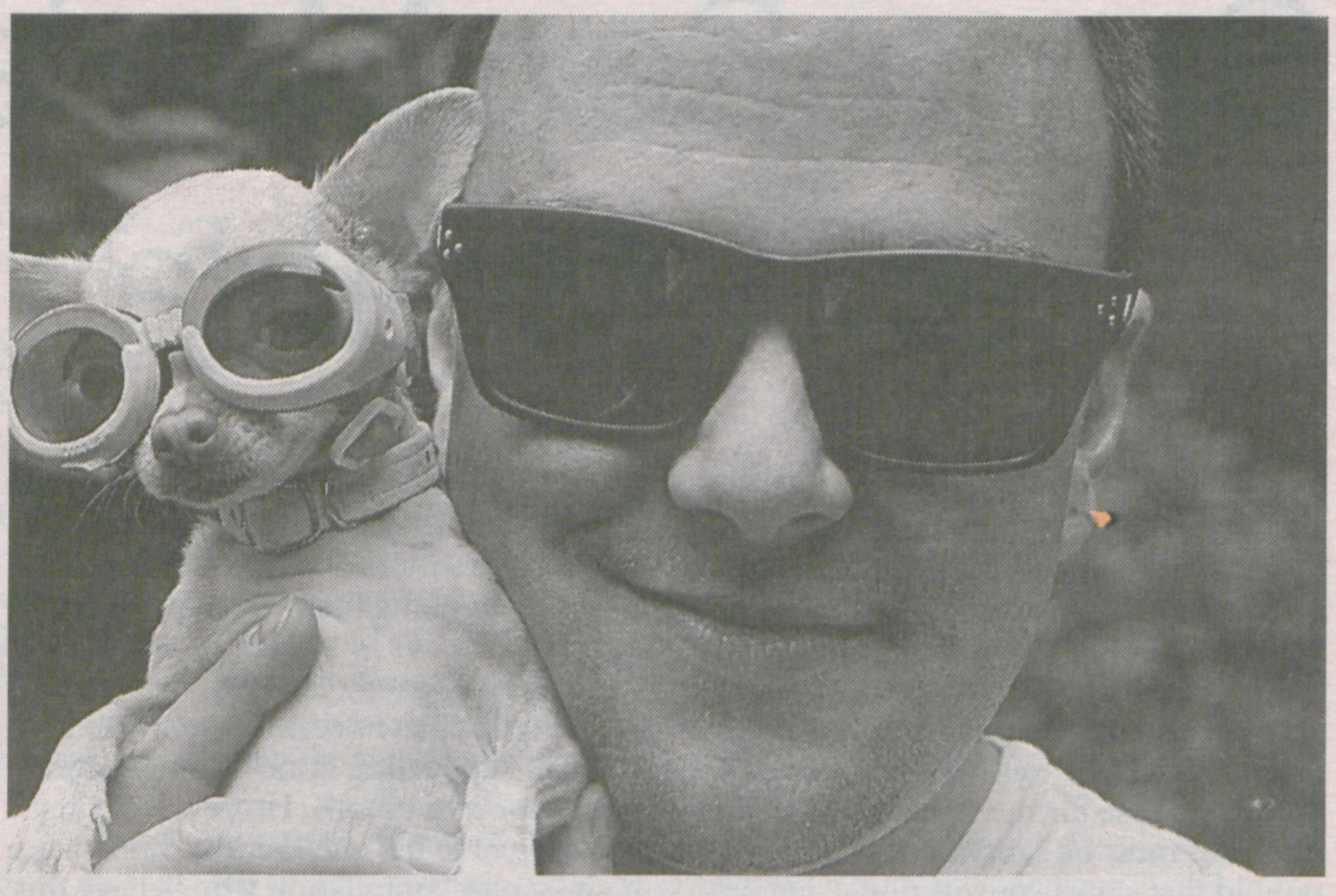


Everyone Should Own One

She's not exactly Dorothy Parker but Paris Hilton is (unintentionally) just as funny. When writer Rob Williams told Paris he was writing an article on gays and their pets, she literally screamed into her cell phone – her new one, not the one that got stolen and sent all over the Internet.

"You've GOT to interview me!" she exclaimed. "I love the gays, and I love pets. I think everyone should own them."

"Own gays and pets?" Williams asked.

"OK!" She replied.

After an uncomfortable silence, he told her: "No. I'm writing about the glbt community and their pets."

"I love BLTs," she purred. "Oh, except for bacon. And tomatoes. But I really love lettuce, except for the taste."

"No, GLBT," Williams interrupted. "Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender."

"That's hot," she said vacantly, and then told me to hold because Lindsay Lohan was on the other line.

"I'll have my publicist set up the interview," she said when she returned. "He's really cute and he's GLB or T, too, I think."

"I'm married," Williams told her.

"Hot." Click.

PAWS Offers Cat Management Forum

PAWS presents the Cat Management Forum: The Future of Feral Cat Management August 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Harrisburg River Rescue, 1119 S. Cameron Street, Harrisburg. The event features Alley Cat Allies. Speakers include Becky Robinson of Alley Cat Allies, Dr. Christine Wilford of The Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project, the Philadelphia Community Cats Council, and Christine Arnold, PAWS' TNR Coordinator.

To make a required reservation for $35 per person, please go to www.pawsofpa.org and click the Cat Management Seminar link on the right side of the page. A vegetarian lunch will provided.

If you wish to register via mail, please send your name, address, check made payable to PAWS for $35 per person, to: PAWS, Attention: Cat Management Forum, PO Box 855, Camp Hill, PA 17001. If you have a question you would like answered by our Speakers, please include it with your registration.

Topics include: Introduction to TNR, Conflict resolution and mediation to protect cats, Changing the government's perception of caregivers, Best practices colony management, Veterinarians and Feral Cats, Why Vets Won't Help, Why tame and adopt isn't the answer, Feral Cats in Shelter Environments, The Future of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and feral cat management in the greater Harrisburg area, Collaboration and a Question and Answer period.

Humane Society Raises $40,000

With help from 325 Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA) supporters and their canine companions, the 2008 Run/Walk for the Animals raised more than $40,000 for homeless animals. The event was made possible by donors including Starbucks Coffee, Rita's Italian Ice, Karns Foods, Classic Drycleaners and others and was sponsored by Mix 106.7, Beard Miller Company, Capital BlueCross, and Susquehanna Consulting & Financial Group. Info: Kelly Hitz, 564.3320; kellyh@humanesocietyhbg.org.

Second Lazarus: A Tool for HIV/AIDS Education

"I learned more from watching this film than all the years I spent in school," said one young viewer after seeing Second Lazarus: Funding Hope & Healing South Central Pennsylvania's HIV/AIDS Community. The 30-minute documentary – now available in a 10 minute version with deeply human testimonials – was recently produced Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli under the auspices of The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, affiliated with the The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

Second Lazarus depicts resources and services helping those who struggle with HIV/AIDS or that provide educational opportunities to communities at risk. The documentary was available January on COMCAST, a partner in the project. Other partners include Capital BlueCross, Cable Positive, and The Tony Cox Community Fund. The film was produced by Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli.

According to the Center for Disease Control's 2004 statistics on HIV/AIDS, young people account for 4% of the population living with AIDS. In 2004, there were 7,761 young people with AIDS, an increase of 42% in just four years. Additionally, African Americans account for 55% of the youth population (defined as ages 13-24 years old) living with HIV.

Why has there been such an increase? Daphne Greenawalt, an RN at the Hershey Medical Center, says that many young people have a false impression that all you have to do is take a pill for HIV. In the 1980's and 1990's, HIV/AIDS education was in abundance; yet in recent years the education on HIV/AIDS prevention has taken a back seat. While medication can help treat HIV/AIDS, giving those infected longer, healthier lives, there are still no drugs that will cure the disease.

Greenawalt goes on to say that with all of the sexual content on television and the internet, students need to be educated about what they are watching. "We need to teach youth to respect their bodies so that they don't feel any pressure to be sexually active," Greenawalt states.

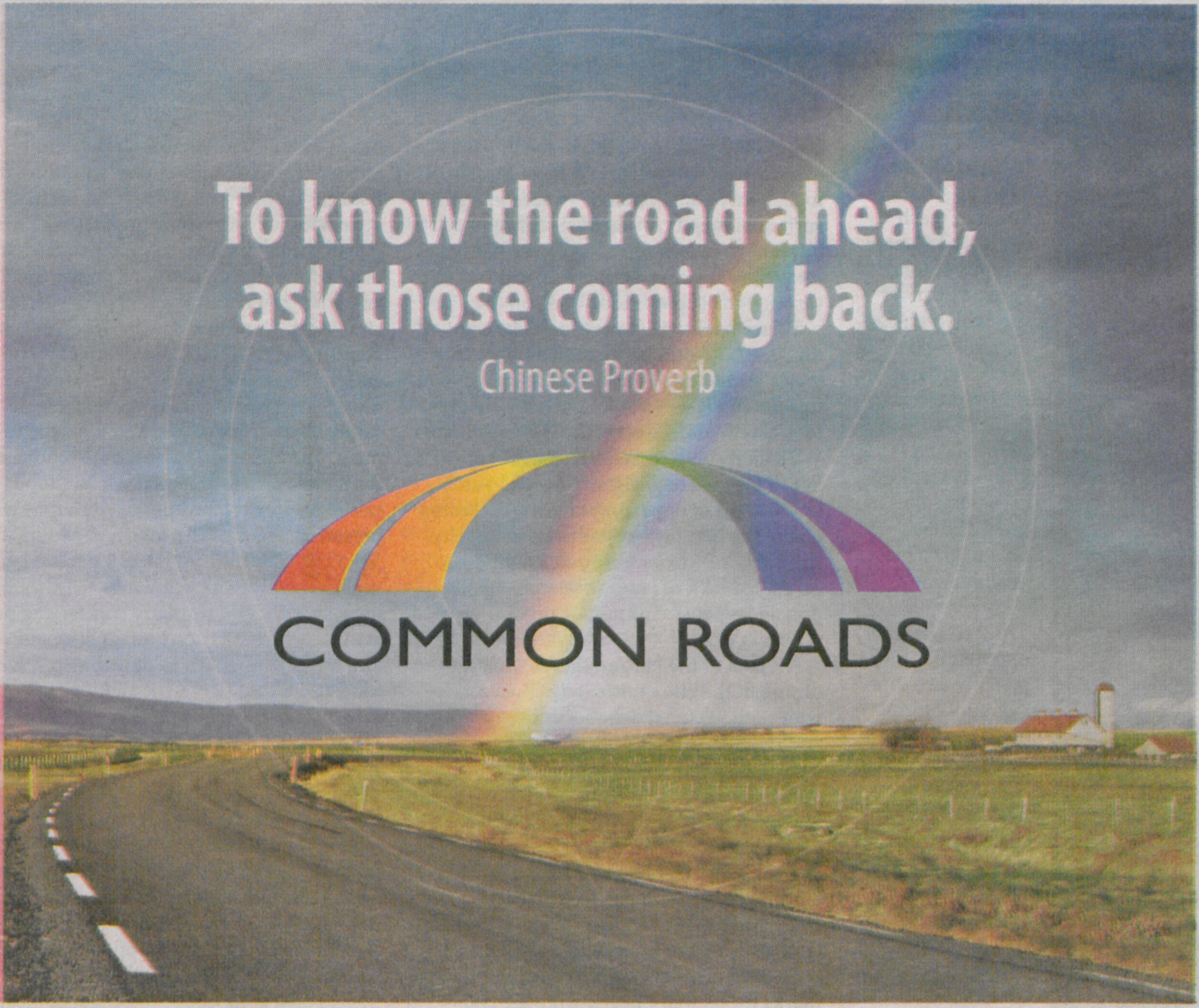
Many teens have a hard time talking with adults about their sexual activity or questions they might have about sex and STDs. The Hamilton Health Center has created a peer educator group for young people (16-18 years old). Peer Educators are trained to speak to others their age about how to react to an environment that promotes a sexual culture.

The Peer Education Program covers topics such as teen sexuality, physical health issues, emotional health issues, peer pressure and much more. It is an opportunity for young people to make a positive impact on the lives of their peers. The Peer Education Program not only provides a positive and safe outlet for teens that need to reach out to others, but it also provides valuable training and experience for the Peer Educators.

Groups and organizations interested in peer training may contact Danielle Green, Family Health Council of Central PA, 717-761-6380 ext. 3075. For more information about HIV/AIDS education and health resources, visit the health section at ANDMagazine.org and follow the link to view the Second Lazarus video.

Originally published in Jump Street's AND Magazine.

Peer group: Hamilton Health Center



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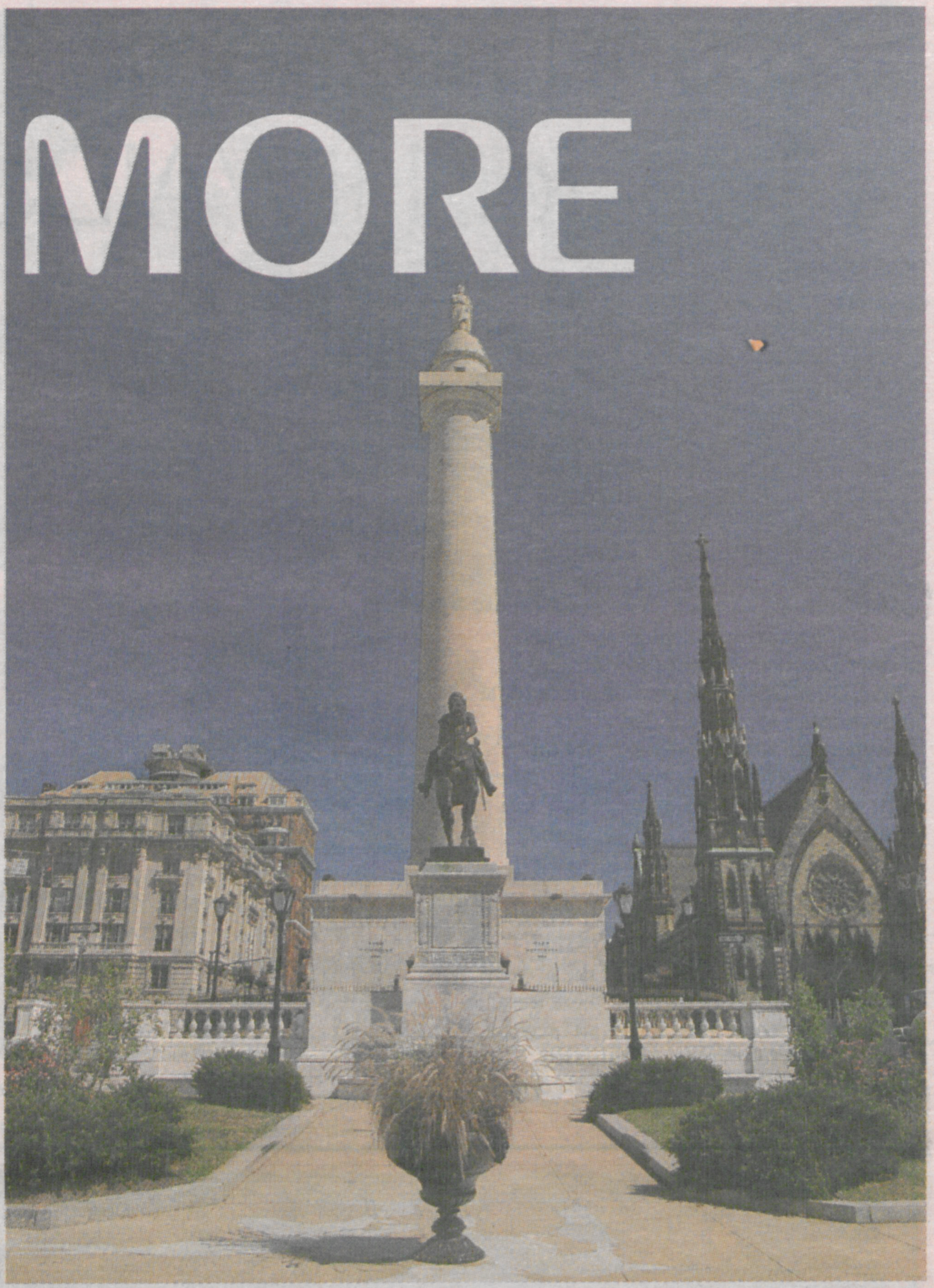
OUT OF TOWN

by Andrew Collins

BALTIMORE



If you haven't been to Baltimore in a while, you owe yourself a visit. This friendly, unassuming city has experienced a virtual rebirth over the past 15 years, rehabilitating its handsome Inner Harbor by converting dilapidated piers and wharves into museums, shops, restaurants, hotels, and condominiums. Often featured in the movies of camp filmmaker and native son John Waters, Baltimore has also developed increased cachet as a welcoming gay and lesbian destination, with its many GLBT-friendly businesses.

Fortunately, the city's success hasn't gone to its head. It's hard to find a more genuine and down-to-earth breed of urbanites than the residents of Baltimore, who retain a special affection for their hometown. You may be lured to Baltimore by the many highly publicized attractions set around downtown's Inner Harbor, and indeed most of these museums and entertainment centers live up to their billing. But be sure to save time to explore the many quirky residential neighborhoods, a few of which - Mount Vernon, Federal Hill, Fells Point - are within easy walking distance of downtown.

The Inner Harbor thrived for years as a shipping crossroads before falling into a state of blight. Its conversion into an entertainment and museum district has made it one of the most engaging and picturesque harbors in America. Popular attractions include the glass-enclosed Harborplace pavilions, where you can browse through dozens of shops. Also check out the Baltimore Maritime Museum, National Aquarium, and World Trade Center (which offers fine views from its 27th-floor observation deck).

A regal grassy knoll south of the harbor, Federal Hill Park rises majestically above downtown and the Inner Harbor. It's an ideal spot to laze under the sun on warm afternoons. The surrounding eponymous neighborhood has loads of inviting cafes and bars, and the neighborhood's American Visionary Art Museum ingeniously blends two historic warehouses within a striking contemporary structure. East of the Inner Harbor, Fells Point may be America's best-preserved Colonial waterfront, with its perfectly maintained Federal-style town houses.

Baltimore's gay epicenter lies north of downtown in historic Mount Vernon, which you reach by strolling north from the Inner Harbor up the city's backbone, Charles Street. The neighborhood is anchored by Mount Vernon Square and its 178-foot-high Washington Monument. Nearby are the outstanding Walters Art Museum and the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the oldest and one of the most prestigious classical music schools in the country.

You'll need to drive or take a bus up Charles Street to reach the leafy 140-acre campus of Johns Hopkins University, which is ideal for strolling and is next to the state's largest museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art. West of Johns Hopkins, Hampden is a good old-fashioned "Bawl'mer" neighborhood, a former millworkers' community that has more recently developed a bounty of hip boutiques, galleries, and cafes. (John Waters, who lives nearby, occasionally strolls these parts and set his movie _Pecker_ here.)

When you're craving a memorable meal, remember that Baltimore's cooking is full of flavor - the city even has its own spice, Old Bay Seasoning, a feisty concoction of 16 seasonings sprinkled mostly on shellfish but required by some locals on seemingly everything but ice cream. If you're on the run, just wander through the copious food stalls in the Harborplace pavilions. It may look like a zoo of tourists, but you'd be surprised how many locals graze here. Many of these places offer top-notch local seafood - particularly oysters, clams, and Chesapeake Bay blue crabs. Walk a bit south to Federal Hill, along South Charles or Light streets, and you'll find dozens of appealing eateries, including one of the best little restaurants in the city, the Bicycle Bistro, where you might dine on grilled rack of lamb with a pineapple-poblano-pepper chutney, or porcini-crusted sea scallops.

East of the harbor, there's superb dining in the city's Little Italy (Boccaccio, with such seasonal delights as local clams and mussels in a pernod-tomato broth, is a particular standout), and in nearby Fells Point, talented chef Nancy Longo helms the kitchen at Pierpoint, which is known for such inventive contemporary regional fare as smoked crab cakes, and fried Maryland chicken breast with parmesan grits.

Mount Vernon has dozens of excellent, gay-popular restaurants. At the high end, opulently decorated Ixia scores high marks for its well-chosen wine list and superbly rendered cuisine, including grilled baby octopus with lemon-fennel confit, and lobster-crab mac-and-cheese with a creamy Fontina sauce. Across the street, Sacha's is a great spot for toothsome grazing - the many "small plates" include crisp french fries in a cone with Old Bay-seasoned creme fraiche, and fried green tomatoes topped with lump crab meat. Continue up Charles Street and you'll come to trendy Donna's, a cheerful and modern space where an artsy crowd mingles over light salads, roasted veggie sandwiches, fresh coffee, and fantastic tiramisu. The Helmand has become renowned for its spicy, well-prepared Afghan food (it's owned by the brother of Afghanistan's president, Hamid Kharzai), and Mount Vernon Stable and Saloon is a perfect late-night venue for chicken wings, sandwiches, burgers, ribs, and similarly comforting pub standards. Finally, don't miss City Cafe, an airy and inviting java joint that also serves food and wine.

Make the trip a bit north toward Johns Hopkins to reach Ixia's sister restaurant, the lovably kitschy Paper Moon Diner, which is open 24 hours many nights, making it a perfect post-clubbing choice. Near >

here in the Hampden neighborhood is the famous Cafe Hon, notable for the massive pink flamingo dangling from the front of the building (not to mention tasty comfort fare like Belgian waffles topped with fresh berries, and famously good meatloaf). There's also great coffee to be sipped nearby at Common Ground coffeehouse, and deli-

The Little Black Book:

Abacrombie Badger B&B (410-244-7227, www.badger-inn.com)
Admiral Fell Inn (866-583-4162, www.harbormagic.com)
Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association
(877-BALTIMORE, www.baltimore.org)
Baltimore Eagle (410-524-3333)
Bicycle Bistro (410-234-1900, www.bicyclebistro.com).
Boccaccio (410-234-1322, www.boccaccio-restaurant.com)
Cafe Hon (410-243-1230, www.cafehon.ezsitemaster.com).
City Cafe (410-539-4252, www.citycafebaltimore.com).
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The Helmand (410-752-0311, www.helmand.com)
Holy Frijoles (410-235-2326)
Inn at 2920 (410-342-4450 or 877-774-2920, www.theinnat2920.com)
Ixia (410-727-1800, www.ixia-online.com)
Jay's on Read (410-225-0188, www.jaysonread.biz).
Leon's (410-539-4993)
Mount Vernon Stable and Saloon (410-685-7427, www.mvstable.com)
Paper Moon Diner (410-889-4444, www.papermoondiner24.com)
Pier 5 Hotel (866-583-4162, www.harbormagic.com)
Pierpoint (410-675-2080, www.pierpointrestaurant.com).
The Quest (410-563-2617, www.questbarbalt.com). Rowan
Tree Lounge (410-468-0550, www.therowantree.net)
Sascha's (410-539-8880, www.saschas.com)
Scarborough Fair B&B (410-837-0010 or 877-954-2747,
www.scarboroughfairbandb.com).

Switchboard Receivership Nearly Complete

"We're nearly complete with our receivership duties regarding The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg," says Greg King, unanimously selected Dec. 6, 2007 by the 25 dues-paying members who attended a special meeting to settle the fate of the troubled 30-year-old organization. As provided for under the organization's bylaws, the members voted unanimously to place the organization into "receivership."

As found on GLSH's web site, the entity's mission was to operate "a telephone and internet information services and conducts other special projects to deliver information about, and to, the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender communities. The Switchboard resource information covers the geographic regions including Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, Reading, Williamsport and State College."

At the time of the receivership action, there was $32,853.65 in as many as 12 accounts under GLSH's umbrella. As receiver, King identified and paid unpaid bills from available funds, and then made all the distributions to other non-profits as stipulated by the dues-paying members when they voted to dissolve.

To date, $3,069 has been placed with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities in the form of the Eash-Potter Scholarship Fund under the advisement of Common Roads and the recently formed Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition. Common Roads, AIDS Community Alliance, Caring Together, and the Eash-Potter Scholarship Fund each received $1,250. Central PA PrideFest received $15,000. King also spent $100 for fees associated with the receivership and also paid $5,940 in outstanding debt.

Currently there is $3,500 remaining which is being held to cover any expenses arising from the dissolution process. "I'm waiting for final clearance from the IRS and several tax agencies before filing final dissolution documents with the Pennsylvania Dept. of State. After all expenses related to the dissolution are paid, any remaining amount will be forwarded to the Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition," King explained.

While the initial hope was to have everything resolved by the end of the first quarter of 2008, King reports "that issues which I uncovered after being appointed receiver have delayed my efforts. Those issues are currently being resolved and the final process of dissolution has begun." King will file a detailed public report as soon as everything is final.

All dues-paying members with up-to-date memberships were notified of the proceedings leading up to the vote to dissolve and its implications by either email, sent by King, or through snail mail sent by Common Roads executive director Michelle Simmons. In all, there were three communications sent to members with regard to GLSH.

King had been asked by both boards of directors of the newly formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc., now affiliated with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, and the Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition to conduct extensive research into GLSH operations. In his initial report entitled "Report of Findings, Condition of The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg," King described the organization's financial records as "very incomplete." Apparently, there were 12 bank accounts under the GLSH EIN. Marc-Carroll Rigel had been serving as Treasurer of GLSH and all its associated venues.

Over a number of years, GLSH had operated several venues under its own tax-exempt EIN number because the venues listed did not separately have their own nonprofit, tax-exempt status. As was expected, the separation of Pride and its functions from what has historically been known as GLSH is underway. The newly-formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc. has a nonprofit application currently underway. Nonprofit status usually takes five to seven years to achieve although venues are granted permission by the IRS to operate after initial approval. During the five to seven year process, the IRS looks to see if there is sufficient public support for the organization and its mission.

Switchboard functions would shift over to the recently formed Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition. A board of directors for the Switchboard was never reconstituted because after a period of public appeal for volunteers to come forward a nominating committee received only two names, not enough to fill all the leadership seats called for in the bylaws.

King noted in a previous communication that "I have not uncovered, and am not aware of any actions on the part of any party that would constitute criminal or civil offense. While there has been much speculation in the community of wrong-doing, in my opinion there is no evidence of anything other than bad business decisions."

Baltimore *cont'd*

cious Mexican food served within the funky confines of Holy Frijoles.

Baltimore gay-bar-goers congregate mostly at a handful of mainstays. Yuppies and stand-and-model types flock almost religiously to Grand Central, a large, multi-level complex that consists of a video lounge, dance bar, billiards room, and outdoor deck. Also on-site is the swanky lesbian bar, Sapphos, with its comfy living-room-esque decor and soft lighting. The other major club in the neighborhood is Club Hippo, whose reputation for great music draws a wide mix of revelers, gay, straight, old, and young. It's a great place to cut loose, especially on Thursday and Saturday nights. When it gets late, the party moves to Club 1722, an 18-and-over after-hours club open on Fridays and Saturdays into the wee hours.

The tiki-themed Coconuts Cafe is another Mt. Vernon hangout that's popular with lesbians, while Club Bunns caters heavily to Baltimore's sizable African-American gay community and has a legendary happy hour. Leather aficionados head a few blocks up Charles to the Eagle, which, though lacking any serious back-room action, nevertheless cultivates as racy an atmosphere as any bar in town. A classic dive that's been serving the gay community for more than 60 years (longer, say some, than any bar in America), Leon's is especially popular late on weekend evenings. Nearby Jay's on Read is a classy piano bar, and Club Phoenix is a laid-back neighborhood hangout with a small dance area and some highly entertaining drag shows. In Federal Hill, the Rowan Tree is a friendly neighborhood spot with an eclectic crowd, and over in the up-and-coming Canton section of Baltimore, The Quest caters to fans of go-go dancers.

Baltimore hotels have become slightly more expensive over the years, as the city has become a serious tourist and convention destination, but rates are still much lower than in nearby Washington, D.C. Most visitors choose properties near the Inner Harbor, close to great restaurants and attractions. An excellent option here is the Pier 5 Hotel, a hip and lively boutique property with whimsically decorated, spacious rooms, many directly facing the Inner Harbor. The same owners run the elegant, historic (and allegedly haunted) Admiral Fells Inn in nearby Fells Harbor - this charming old-world property earns kudos for its helpful service, romantically decorated rooms, and afternoon tea and refreshments. In Mount Vernon, the historic 1924 Clarion Peabody Court, with its 104 handsomely outfitted rooms, enthusiastically welcomes gay and lesbian travelers.

You'll also find some impressive smaller properties around town. The quirky Abacrombie Badger B&B is set inside an 1880s town house and lies just a short walk from several gay bars. Other esteemed gay-friendly inns include the six-room Scarborough Fair B&B, in historic Federal Hill just steps from the Inner Harbor, and the gay-owned Inn at 2920, near the waterfront in Canton. This stunner with exposed brick walls and high ceilings has posh rooms with tasteful, sleek furnishings and contemporary bathrooms. These cozy properties offer visitors a great chance to get to know Baltimore's distinctive, close-knit neighborhoods and appreciate one of the city's best assets: its people.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

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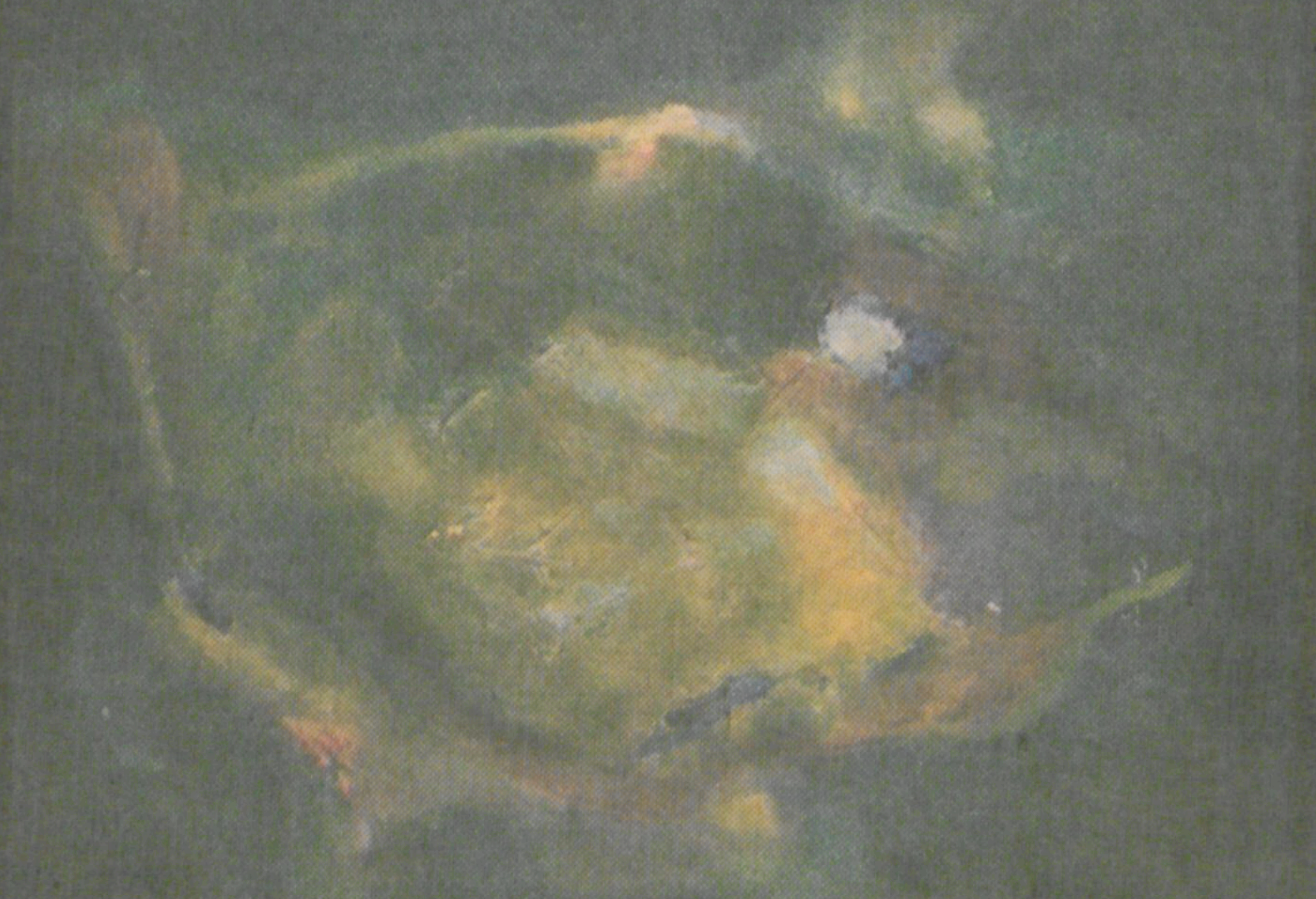

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Downtown Lancaster Renaissance Charms Visitors

By Phil Wenger
Isaac's Restaurant and Deli Founder

> "To visit GLBT-friendly establishments, you no longer have to go to towns, like New Hope, because places like Downtown Lancaster now exist."
> – Phil Wenger

Business in downtown Lancaster is booming, as a wide array of boutiques and restaurants continue the renaissance of this charming historical city. Visitors will find a large number of gay and lesbian business owners at the Downtown Retailers Group, working with the James Street Improvement District, joining the Lancaster Arts surge, vending at Central Market, and operating small businesses all over town.

Whether you travel down Prince Street and Gallery Row, or visit Uptown on North Queen Street with its eclectic shops, or stop at Central Market with its multitude of vendors and surrounding boutiques, glbt owners are everywhere - adding to the creative class that is propelling Lancaster City to be a leader in the arts and culture for Central PA.

As an example, glbts used to gather in separate watering holes like the Tally Ho but today, gays and lesbians mix it up at a wide mélange of charming restaurants and bars sprinkled around town. These include Molly's Pub on Chestnut, The Belvedere Inn, Fenz (a new late night restaurant & bar) and restaurants like, Characters Pub, Isaac's and Chestnut Hill Cafe (opening in March). These venues have discovered that diversity is key to their success and that glbt customers are an important part of their customer profile.

To visit glbt-friendly establishments, you no longer have to go to towns, like New Hope, because places like downtown Lancaster now exist. Stay at Lancaster Arts Hotel, visit the Fulton Opera House, or stop by the Charles Demuth Museum featuring Lancaster's most famous artist who also happened to be gay. And, while you're visiting, be sure to eat at one of the great restaurants listed above who welcome and treasure glbt customers.

Lancaster: The Red Rose City

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Lancaster Block Party Benefits Youth Mental Health

Merchants in the 300 Block of N. Queen Street, in historic downtown Lancaster will sponsor the Sixth Annual "Back to the Past" Block Party June 1, 11 a.m. -6 p.m., rain or shine.

Proceeds from this year's carnival games, always popular with the kids, will benefit CSP/MHA (Consumer Support Program, a subsidiary of Mental Health America), an organization that works to change youth attitudes about mental health and fight the stigma of mental health problems in 1 of every 5 young people. CSP volunteers will run the games.

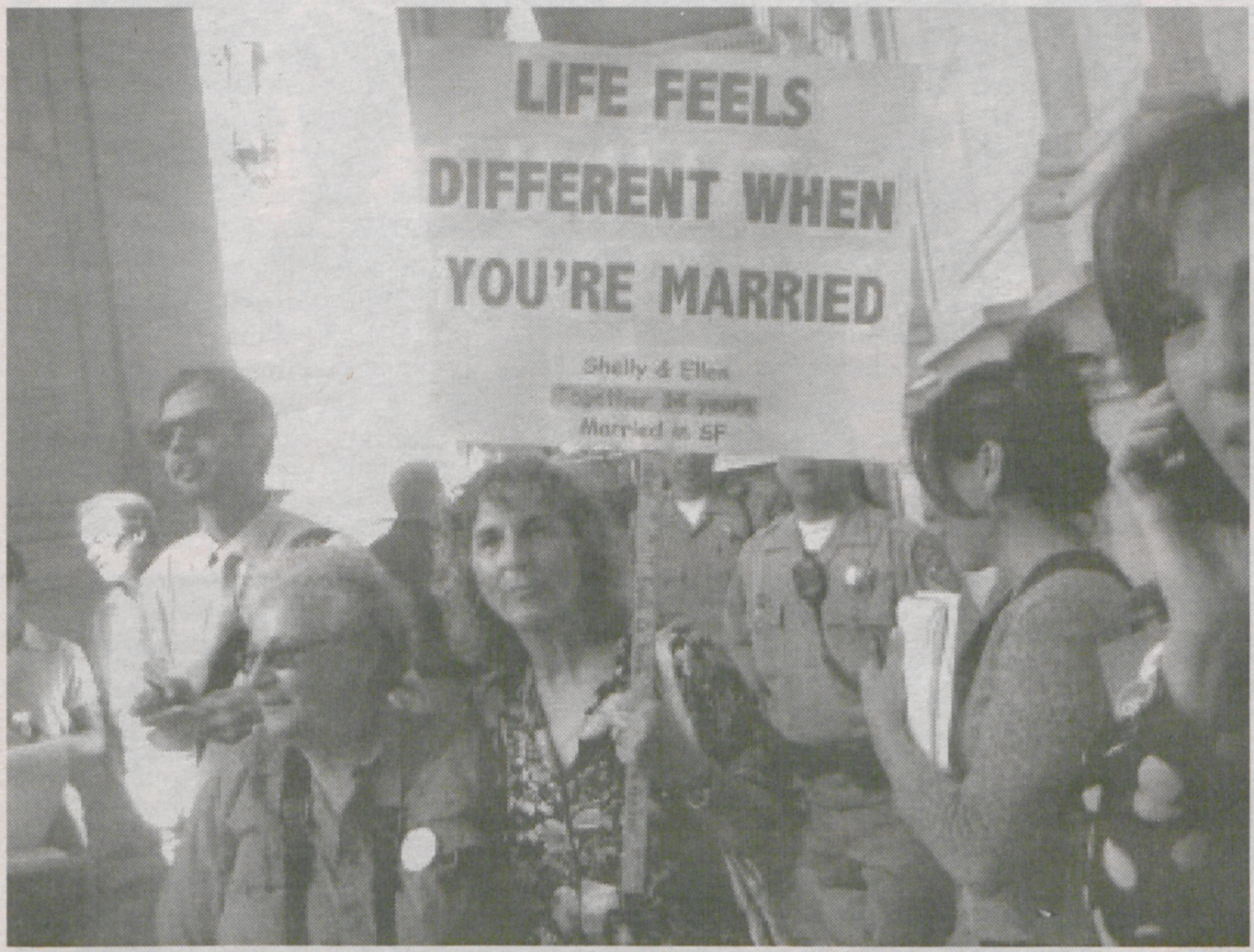
The block is known for its eclectic and unusual shops, services, eateries and will be closed to traffic between Walnut and Lemon Sts. The event features arts and crafts, jewelry, candles, photos, home décor, toys, art and antique booths, food vendors, face painting, street performers and rock bands.

Entertainment headliners are local vintage rockers The Silver Hawks. Also appearing are The Bensens, the Barnstormer's Cylo, who will drop by noon to 1 p.m., Street Performers Contest Winner The Honkaphone Man, and Red Rose USA Dance. Shops will be open and Carnival Games for the kids will be set up in Lebzelter's parking lot, corner of N. Queen and Walnut. Other surprises are in store, planners says.

Information: Pat Randolph, 717-509-7660; http://www.uptownlancaster.com.

CA Gay Marriage Ban Defeated

by Michael Petrelis



With the California Supreme Court landmark ruling granting full marriage rights to gays and lesbians, Central Voice SF Correspondent Michael Petrelis was on the courthouse steps as the decision was handed down.

The most important quote from the court's decision: "[R]etaining the designation of marriage exclusively for opposite-sex couples and providing only a separate and distinct designation for same-sex couples may well have the effect of perpetuating a more general premise - now emphatically rejected by this state - that gay individuals and same-sex couples are in some respects 'second-class citizens' who may, under the law, be treated differently from, and less favorably than, heterosexual individuals or opposite-sex couples. Under these circumstances, we cannot find that retention of the traditional definition of marriage constitutes a compelling state interest. Accordingly, we conclude that to the extent the current California statutory provisions limit marriage to opposite-sex couples, these statutes are unconstitutional."

Following the decision, conservative legal group The Alliance Defense Fund asked the state's supreme court to not enforce the ruling until after the November election, when voter's are likely to encounter a ballot measure on whether to amend the state's constitution to ban gay marriage. Without the requested delay, couples could begin marrying in 30 days from the decision. According to a 2006 census, California has 108, 734 same-sex households.

Meanwhile, Pope Benedict XVI said marriage should not be confused with other forms of "union," opening speculation that the church may have to face political reality in that civil unions are gaining sway worldwide. Regiolnally, Catholic Bishop Keven C. Rhoades said he was "sad but not surprised" by the decision.

Central Voice SF Correspondent Michael Petrelis has appeared on The O'Reilly Factor, CNN, ABC News, and National Public Radio.

Portland Elects Gay Mayor

Portland, Oregon City Commissioner Sam Adams had little difficulty winning Portland's mayoral race Tuesday, becoming the first openly gay mayor ever elected to lead one of the 30 largest U.S. cities. Adams won 58 percent of the vote, avoiding a November runoff. Local businessman Sho Dozono had 34 percent and almost a dozen other candidates split the remainder.

Adam's sexuality was never an issue in the campaign but following his victory said he was aware of the history he was making. "I'm running not to be a gay mayor, but a great mayor," he said. "But I'm very cognizant, very aware that I'm the first openly gay mayor of a major American city. That's a real honor." The Washington DC-based Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund endorsed Adams and helped to fund his campaign.

According to a 2006 census, California has 108,734 same-sex households.

LancasterPRIDE 2008

1) Dennis Martin, Jim Akers, Seth Hamill, and (rear) Vince Petrosino talk to voters about Capital Region Stonewall Democrats.
2) The Curve's Michael Bechtel and youth program coordinator Erica Rich enjoy the festivities.
3) Crystal Spings consultant Karen Wiest strikes a pose.
4) Ameriprise Financial's Debra and Michael Miley embrace the community.
5) Power couple Greg King, lead organizer of the Winter hearts Festival, and Charles Oswald, Club XS manager and black & White Benefit guru, hold forth.
6) The event provided "safe space" for everyone.
7) AIDS Community Alliance community educator Jesus Kain and friends.
8) Marlene Kanuck, Bebe Mullaugh, and recently hired part-time coordinator Louis Marven representing The LGBT Center Coalition, affiliated with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. www.centralpalgbtcenter.org

social and recreational organizations:

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride

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Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St. New Cumberland
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out

PO Box 266, Mechanicsburg
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
3623 Green Street, Harrisburg
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg.
2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Bldg
Box 89, Shippensburg
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

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In The Tank cont'd from page 5

your voice

percent of the firms say employment levels at their business are the same as they were six months ago. Twenty-two percent report employing fewer workers; while 13% say they are employing more people. And, looking ahead there is a rare glimmer of optimism: 22% say they expect to increase the number of people they employ over the coming six months, 9% plan to employ fewer. Employment levels are expected to remain constant at 67% of the businesses.

Over the past six months sales have dropped at 46% of the businesses surveyed, while sales increased at 22% and remained relatively the same at 31%. Looking ahead there is again some optimism as 31% forecast rising sales during the coming six months, 22% anticipate sales will decrease, and 44% expect sales to remain relatively the same.

Driving the business leaders' negative view on the direction of Pennsylvania's business climate is the fact 47% of them think the U.S. economy is already in a recession, and another 33% say the national economy is headed toward a recession. A key factor in that view is the rising cost of gasoline and diesel fuel, something 92% of the businesses responding say has adversely affected their operations.

State Issues

In addition to the problems being experienced by the national economy, Pennsylvania business chieftains say state level policies are adding to their burdens. In particular, the mandated increase in the state minimum wage has had an impact on employment levels. Seventeen percent of the companies surveyed said they have not hired new employees because of the minimum wage hike, while 6% have actually had to lay off employees because they could not afford to pay the higher minimum wage. The employment cut-back has strongly impacted teenagers and inexperienced workers as 20% of the businesses surveyed said the higher minimum wage makes it unprofitable to hire such workers. Twenty-three percent of the businesses have responded to the higher minimum wage requirement by raising prices, 10% have cancelled expansion plans, and 3% have been forced to cut their hours of operations.

And matters could get worse. The possibility of an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) being applied to the state's minimum wage would result in 27% of the businesses raising prices, 15% implementing a hiring freeze, 10% reducing hours, 5% laying off employees, and 33% utilizing a combination of those actions.

Another storm cloud on the horizon is proposed legislation before the Pennsylvania General Assembly that would mandate giving workers specifically-timed breaks plus a specifically-timed meal break in each eight hour period. Sixty-six percent of the businesses responding to the Keystone Business Climate Survey said such a new law would have a negative impact on their business - 31% said the impact would be strongly negative.

Many of the Rendell Administration's economic policies are getting negative reviews from the state's business community. Three-quarters (75%) say the amount of borrowing for non-building programs by state government over the past five years has been excessive, 47% labeled the increased debt "very excessive."

Sunbury Daily Item Reads Gordner's Beads

State Sen. John Gordner, R-27 of Berwick, one of the sponsors of the Marriage Protection Act and who represents part of Dauphin County, had his beads read by The Sunbury Daily Item. A May 8 editorial said: "Twenty percent of those splitting up had been married fewer than five years. If lawmakers wish to strengthen marriage, they should seek a way to help couples determine their compatibility before they exchange vows…The Marriage Protection Act is misnamed, and it is embarrassing that the Central Susquehanna Valley's state senator is a leading advocate on its behalf." The newspaper also reported that just over 1,000 couples were married in Northumberland, Snyder, Union and Montour Counties in 2006, while just under 500 couples filed for divorce.

http://www.dailyitem.com/archivesearch/local_story_128234532.html

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Banks cont'd from page 5

your voice

Capital remains strong, strong for investment banks as well as for commercial banks and thrifts.

The liquidity crisis that we have seen on Wall Street comes from a crisis of confidence. In the 1930s, before deposit insurance, banks failed because of a crisis of confidence that led to liquidity insolvency. That can also happen to an investment bank such as Bear Stearns. There is a crisis of confidence, lending lines are pulled, liquidity evaporates and insolvency is inevitable.

We all know that our financial system is being tested. But let us also remember that the system is showing its resiliency.

The Federal Reserve Board has acted to help restore liquidity by assuring everyone that they are responding to the problems in a measured way. The Fed opened up its lending facility known as the discount window to Wall Street firms and is taking steps to restore liquidity to the markets. In addition, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight has reduced the capital surcharge imposed on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac so they can buy an additional $200 billion in home mortgages. And the Federal Housing Finance Board will allow the nation's 12 Federal Home Loan Banks to purchase more mortgage-backed securities to provide greater liquidity in the mortgage markets.

Meanwhile, those headlines and news reports that keep repeating the word "crisis" overlook the fact that the sub-prime lending crisis was caused by unregulated brokers and Wall Street institutions themselves, sometimes using the title "bank," and not by regulated, insured banks.

Federally regulated banks employ underwriting practices to avoid losses and to promote safe and sound operations. And when they do not operate appropriately, their regulators, who visit them annually, will take exception to such practices and require corrective action. That's why FDR's observation half a century ago is still relevant: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Our banking system is strong. This crisis will pass, as have all the others, and the result will be a stronger financial system with fewer unregulated players and a reminder that liquidity and capital are both important to solvency.

Energy cont'd from page 5

your voice

sumed in Pennsylvania by 2.5 percent and the peak electricity demand, when electricity is most expensive, by 4 percent.

The other vital bill is Special Session House Bill 1(SHB 1), the clean energy funding bill. Over a four to six year period, the law would invest $850 million in clean energy projects like energy efficient buildings and a large solar program for homeowners and businesses. It would bring thousands of great green jobs to Pennsylvania and produce more clean electricity. SHB 1 builds on a Senate bill that passed in December. That bill calls for a $650 million investment over 10 years which means too little will be spent in the next four years when it is most needed.

Just as the energy world is experiencing enormous change, 2008 is already an extraordinary year in politics. The turnout in the Democratic primaries has been substantial; the triumph of John McCain over more conservative opponents was surprising; and now Pennsylvania's voter registration numbers have profoundly changed in ways that are just beginning to be understood.

Put simply, for the first time since at least 1980 and perhaps ever, there are one million more Democratic registered voters than Republican voters. Traditionally Republican Montgomery, Centre, and Bucks counties now have more voters registered as Democrats. Dauphin and many other counties saw substantial increases in Democratic registrations.

Voters are shifting their allegiances. They are looking for representatives that will solve problems, not engage in bitter partisan games.

Energy is one of those real problems that need action right now. More than a year has been wasted in Harrisburg, and consumers are paying the price. Yet PennFuture hears increasingly from sources in the Senate that there will be no action on energy bills unless they are part of a budget deal.

Smart leaders of both parties would do well to pass House Bill 2200 and Special Session House Bill 1 in May and not make them part again of state budget dealing. Passing these bills in May would demonstrate that Republicans and Democrats have gotten the message and can work together to solve real problems.

Info: 717-214-7920; info@pennfuture.org.

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social and recreational organizations:

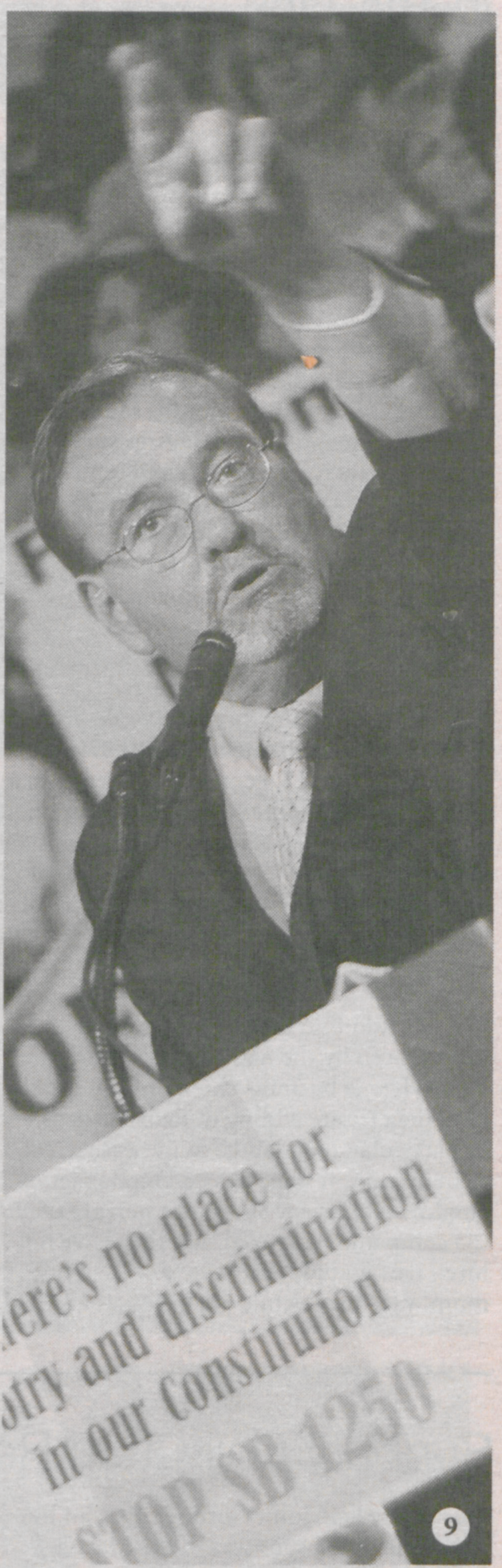
Susquehanna Club
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle.
Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401, Harrisburg
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

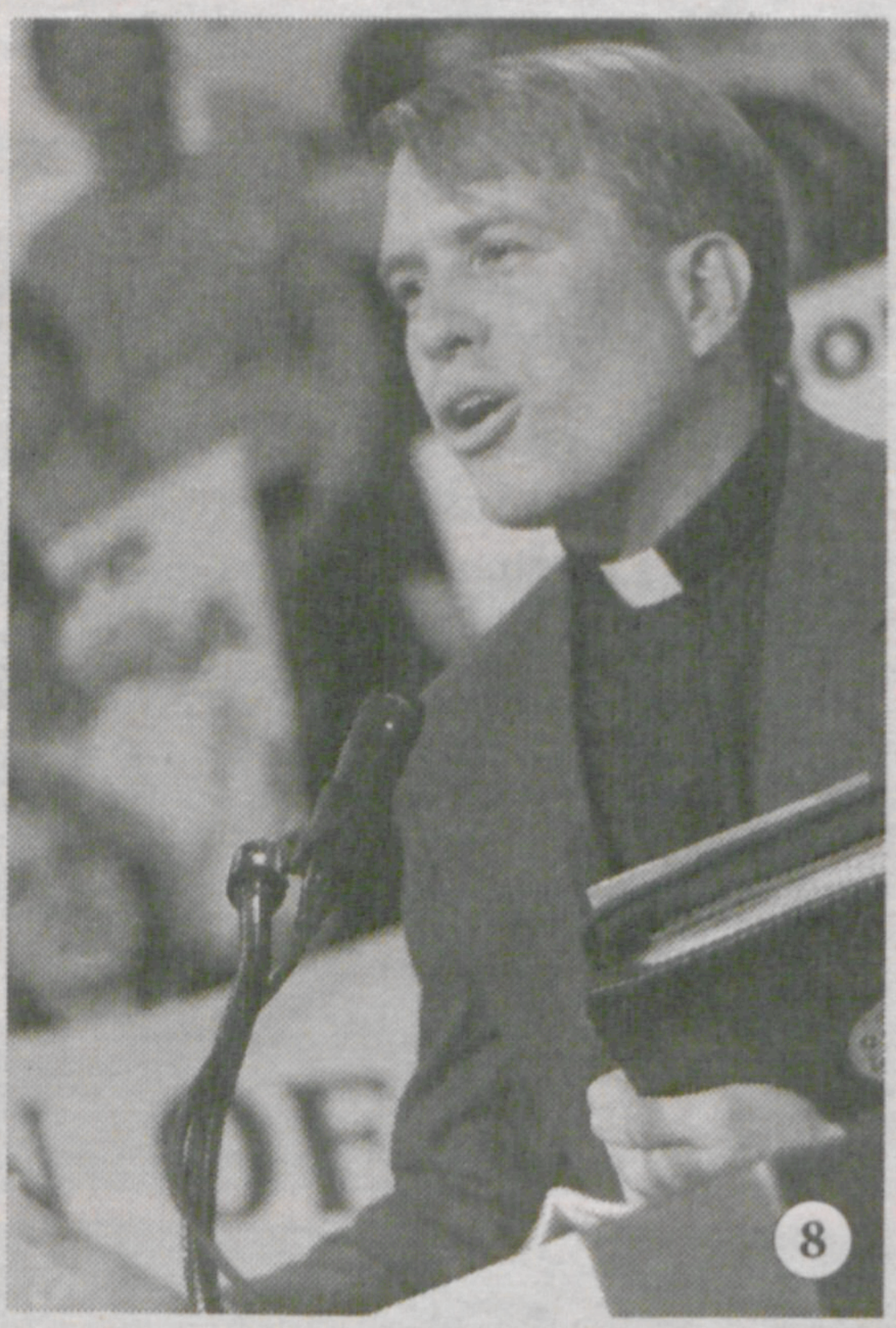
The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org



Rally against SB 1250

> It all depends on how much pandering they do to small minorities.
>
> - Jeff Welshen
> Capital Region
> Stonewall Democrats
> co-chair



publisher' note *cont'd*

Is Gordner out of touch with voters? The most recent poll numbers indicate that 58% of Republicans are not opposed to "civil unions." In general, 65% of the poll respondents favor civil unions, while only 27% are opposed.

So why the big push right now? Sen. Connie Williams told the crowd "it's a put-up job for the 2010 gubernatorial election." Will former US Sen. Rick Santorum run for governor? Will current state Senator Jeff Piccola, who supports the amendment, run with him?

As chief organizer of the event, Equality Advocates Stacy Sobel said "There is no place for bigotry or discrimination in our constitution."

1) Sen. Babette Josephs drew loud cheers citing "misinformation and outright lies" circulated by amendment supporters.
2) Andy Hoover, community organizer and legislative assistant, American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania
3) Stacey Sobel, executive director, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania (www.equalitypa.org), and rally emcee.
4) Sen. Connie Williams, D-Montgomery/Delaware.
5) Diane Topakian, Service Employees International Union
6) Sen. Jim Ferlo, D-Allegheny/Armstrong/Westmoreland
7) Karen Buck, Senior Law Center, Philadelphia
8) Lebanon Valley College's Rev. Paul Fullmer is passionate in his belief that gay civil rights is a simple matter of basic civil rights.
9) State Rep. Mike O'Brien, D-Philadelphia.
10) State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Pittsburgh, lead sponsor of the House bill to ban anti-gay discrimination in employment, housing and credit (HB 1400 / SB 761).
11) Sen. Vincent Fumo, the focus of much controversy himself, irritates supporters of SB 1250 by historical and contemporary comparisons to majority rule regarding slavery.

Photos by Bruno Andrews

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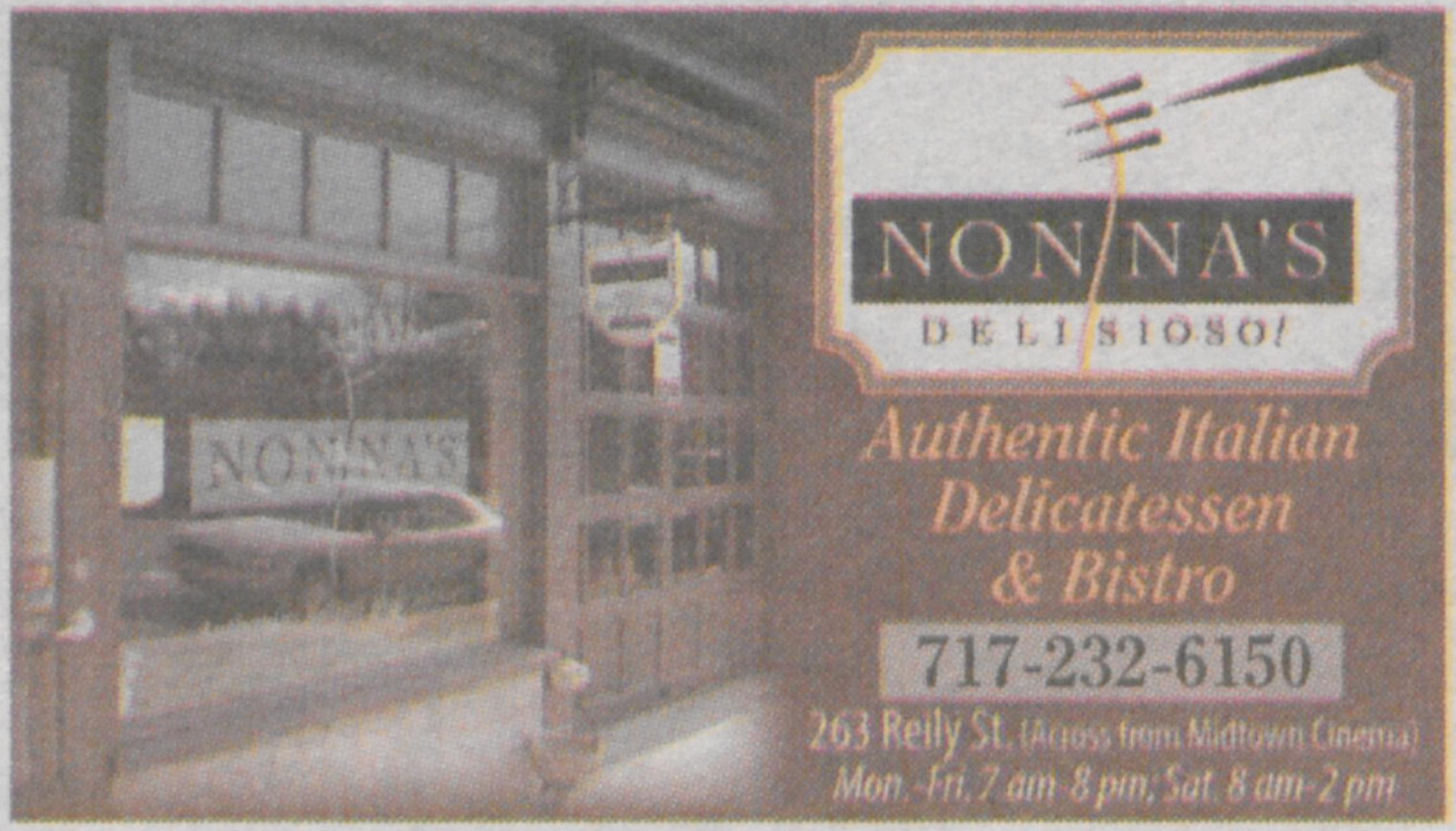

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